るろうに剣心

明治剣客浪漫譚

和月伸宏

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。著者カラー原画に加え、著者の原画をもとに集英社でデジタル彩色を行った特別編集版です。

JUMP COMICS

るろうに剣心

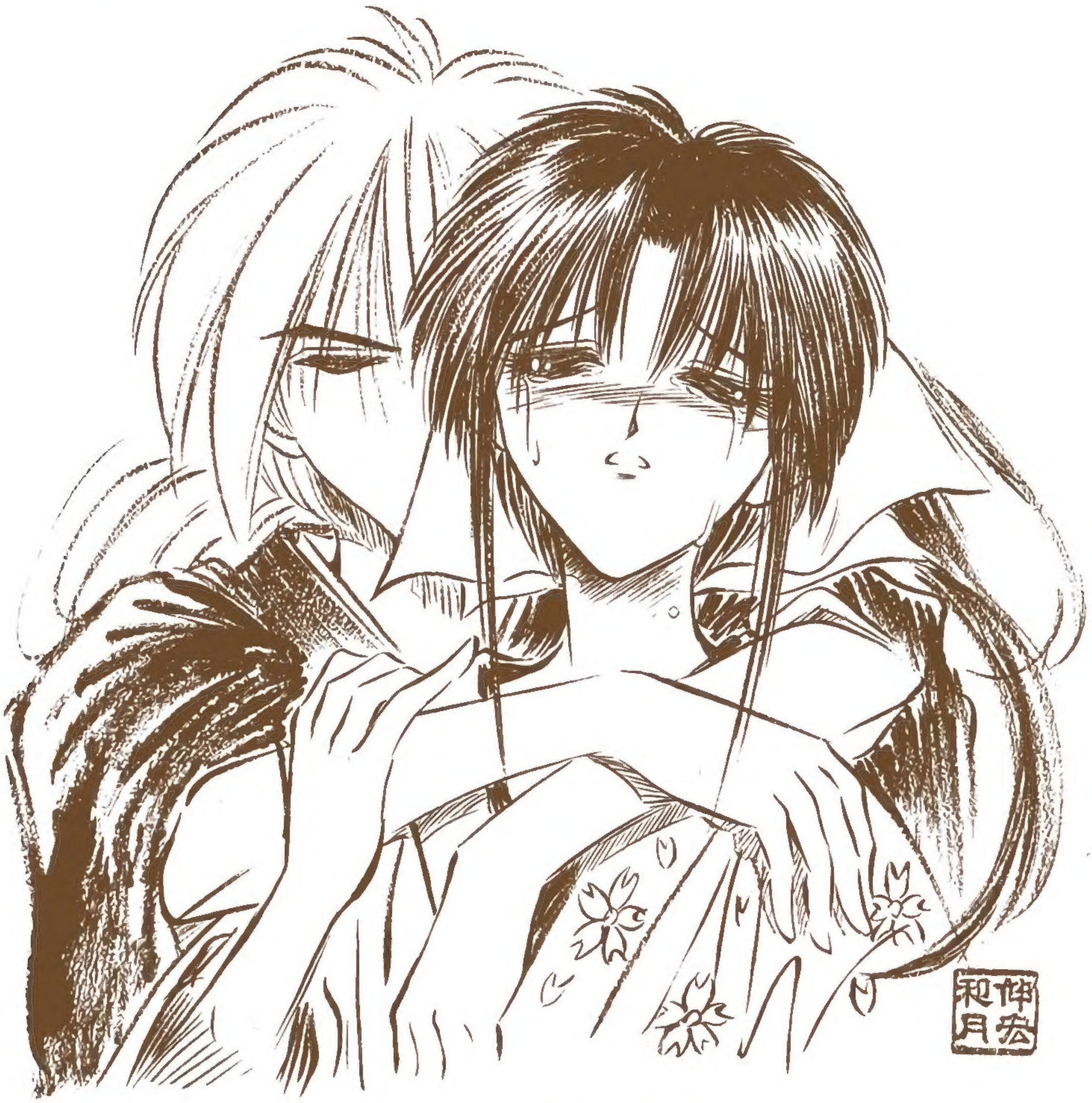
けんしん

―明治剣客浪漫譚―

めいじけんかくろまんたん

巻之七　明治十一年五月十四日

かんのななめいじじゅういちねんごがつじゅうよっか



和月伸宏

わつきのぶひろ

るろうに剣心

登場人物紹介

緋村剣心
（人斬り抜刀斎）

神谷薫

明神弥彦

相楽左之助

高荷恵

斎藤一

赤末有人

大久保利通

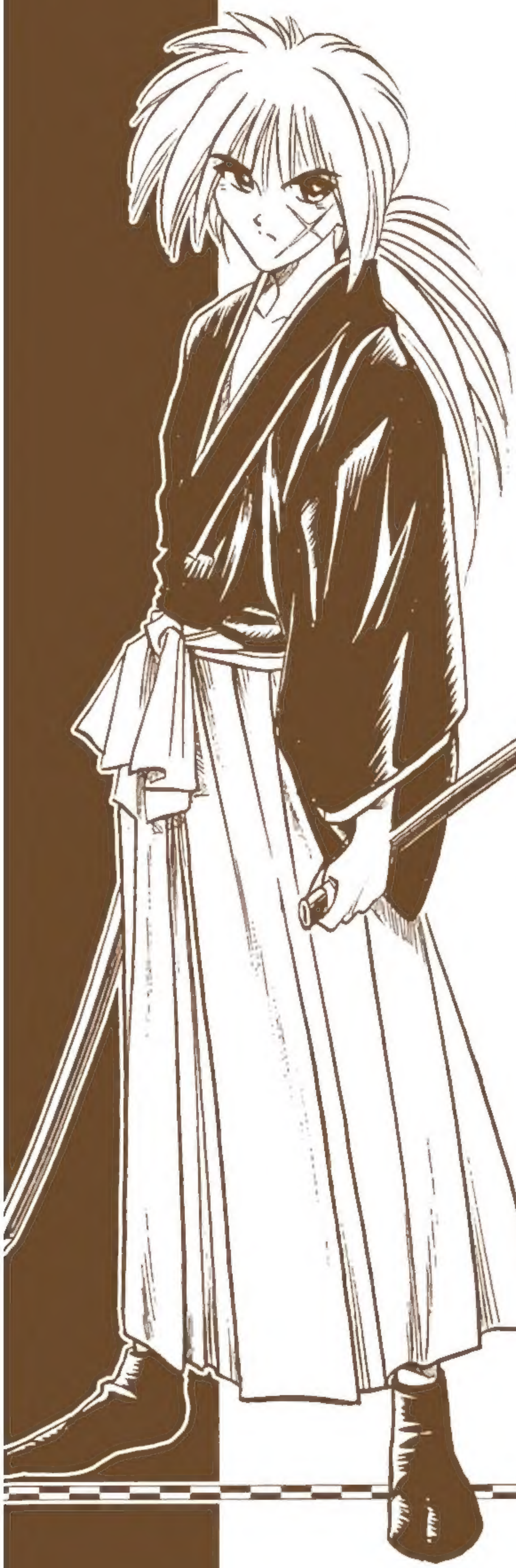
6巻までのあらすじ

人を斬り殺す事を自らに禁じ、逆刃刀をもつ男、緋村剣心――彼こそは新時代・明治を切り拓いた維新志士の中で、最強無比の伝説を持つ「人斬り」緋村抜刀斎、その人であった。維新後、流浪人となった剣心だったが、神谷薫が師範代を務める神谷道場に、「ニセ抜刀斎事件」を解決したのが縁で、居候することになる。その後、事件のせいで門弟が一人もいなくなった神谷活心流に、剣心がヤクザから救った士族の少年、明神弥彦が弟子入りする。そして、剣心に出会い、喧嘩屋をやめた相楽左之助も、たびたび道場に出入りするようになり、薫一人だった神谷道場も、にわかに騒がしくなってきた。

人斬りの剣を不殺の剣に変え、自由に人を守り続ける流浪人・剣心、次なる事件は…。

目次

るろうに剣心 —明治剣客浪漫譚— 巻之七



第四十八幕「蘇る狼」 百八十七
第四十九幕「豺狼」 百六十七
第五十幕「蠢動」 百四十七
第五十一幕「対峙」 百二十七
第五十二幕「牙を剝く狼」 百
第五十三幕「呼応」 八十七
第五十四幕「二人を止める者」 六十七
第五十五幕「大久保利道の依頼」 四十七
第五十六幕「明治十一年五月十四日—午前—」 二十七
第五十七幕「明治十一年五月十四日—午後—」 七

第四十八幕「蘇る狼」

STAND ASIDE.
OKITA,
誠

I'M NOT BLIND.

I. AFTER ALL, AM THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI FIRST UNIT.
NO, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
!
BUT YOU HAVE TUBER-CULOSIS, DO YOU NOT?

ACT 048: THE WOLF REVIVED

I, THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI THIRD UNIT. SAITOU HAJIME...

WILL KILL THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI.

ソオオオ

チャキ

LET'S GO.

ドドド

KEN-
SHIN!!

KENSHIN ...?

PRACTICE IS OVER, KENSHIN.

祝!連載一周年

HEY, WAKE UP.

COME ON, WE'RE GOING HOME.

ズル

ズル

WHAT ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?

ガバ

!?

YOU, DUMMY!

DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER KENSHINS?

.....

THE SHINSENGUMI!?

YOU KNOW, YOU USUALLY SLEEP LIGHTLY, BUT TODAY YOU'RE REALLY OUT OF IT.

HAVE YOU BEEN DREAMING ABOUT THE PAST?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

SINCE I DREAMED OF THOSE DAYS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES.

YES, I CROSSED SWORDS WITH THEM...

YOU MEAN THE FAMOUS RIVALS OF THE ISHIN SHISHI?

THE SHINSEN-GUMI?

THEY WIELDED THE SWORDS TO PROTECT THE PEACE OF KYOTO WHEN THE ISHIN-SHISHI WAS STILL DISORGANIZED, ACTING INDIVIDUALLY TO MAKE KYOTO A DEMON CITY OF SWORD AND BLOOD.

THE SHINSENGUMI WAS ORIGINALLY A UNIT EMPLOYED BY THE BAKUFU'S KYOTO DEFENSE IN AIZU, WITH THE EDO TAMA REGION SWORDSMEN WHO PASSED THROUGH MANY VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE, AT THEIR CORE.

THEY WERE DEFEATED BY MODERN WEAPONS AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE PAST, BUT WERE PROBABLY THE GREATEST FIGHTING FORCE IN THE HISTORY OF JAPAN; THE LARGEST, THE STRONGEST AND THE LAST GREAT GROUP OF SWORDSMEN.

THEY RALLIED UNDER THEIR SCARLET FLAG BEARING THE CHARACTER FOR LOYALTY AND DRESSED IN STRIPED LIGHT YELLOW JACKETS. THEY WERE ALSO KNOWN AS THE MIBURO* FOR THEIR ELITE SWORDSMANSHIP AND AN ABSOLUTE LACK OF FEAR FOR DEATH.

誠

新選組、武田、山崎、井上、土方、永倉、斎藤、沖田、近藤、原田

*AT THE TIME THE UNIT WAS FORMED, THEY WERE STATIONED AT THE VILLAGE OF MIBU, SO THEY WERE CALLED THE WOLVES OF MIBU OR MIBURO.

...ESPECIALLY THE CAPTAINS OF THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD UNITS OUT OF THE TEN WERE UNMISTAKABLY STRONG.

HOWEVER, THE UNIT CAPTAINS ...

I DON'T KNOW.

WHY'D THEY HAVE UNIT CAPTAINS?

NATURALLY THEY COULDN'T FIGHT PROPER DUELS.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY FIRST WORKED TO MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC PEACE.

OF COURSE, THEIR INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS VARIED...

BUT I HEARD THEY FOUGHT BEST IN GROUPS INSTEAD OF ONE ON ONE.

THAT'S COWARDLY.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE FACED EACH OTHER, WE HAVE NEVER REACHED A CONCLUSION.

BUT THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THEN THE THIRD CAPTAIN...

I'VE HEARD THAT MOST OF THEM HAVE DIED BY NOW...

IT'S TOO BAD.

AS A MATTER OF FACT. I FEEL EVEN CLOSER TO THEM THAN SOME OF THE ISHIN THAT NOW HOLD GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

WE WERE ON DIFFERENT SIDES, BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT WE TOOK OUR SWORDS AND OUR LIVES IN OUR HANDS FOR OUR BELIEFS.

CERTAINLY WE WERE ENEMIES, BUT I BORE THEM NO PERSONAL HATRED.

WELL...

WHAT'RE YOU BEING SO NICE FOR? WEREN'T THEY YOUR ENEMIES?

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO TALK SO MUCH ABOUT THE PAST.

HMM...

I GUESS IT IS KIND OF WEIRD.

...SINCE I DREAMED ABOUT THOSE DAYS...

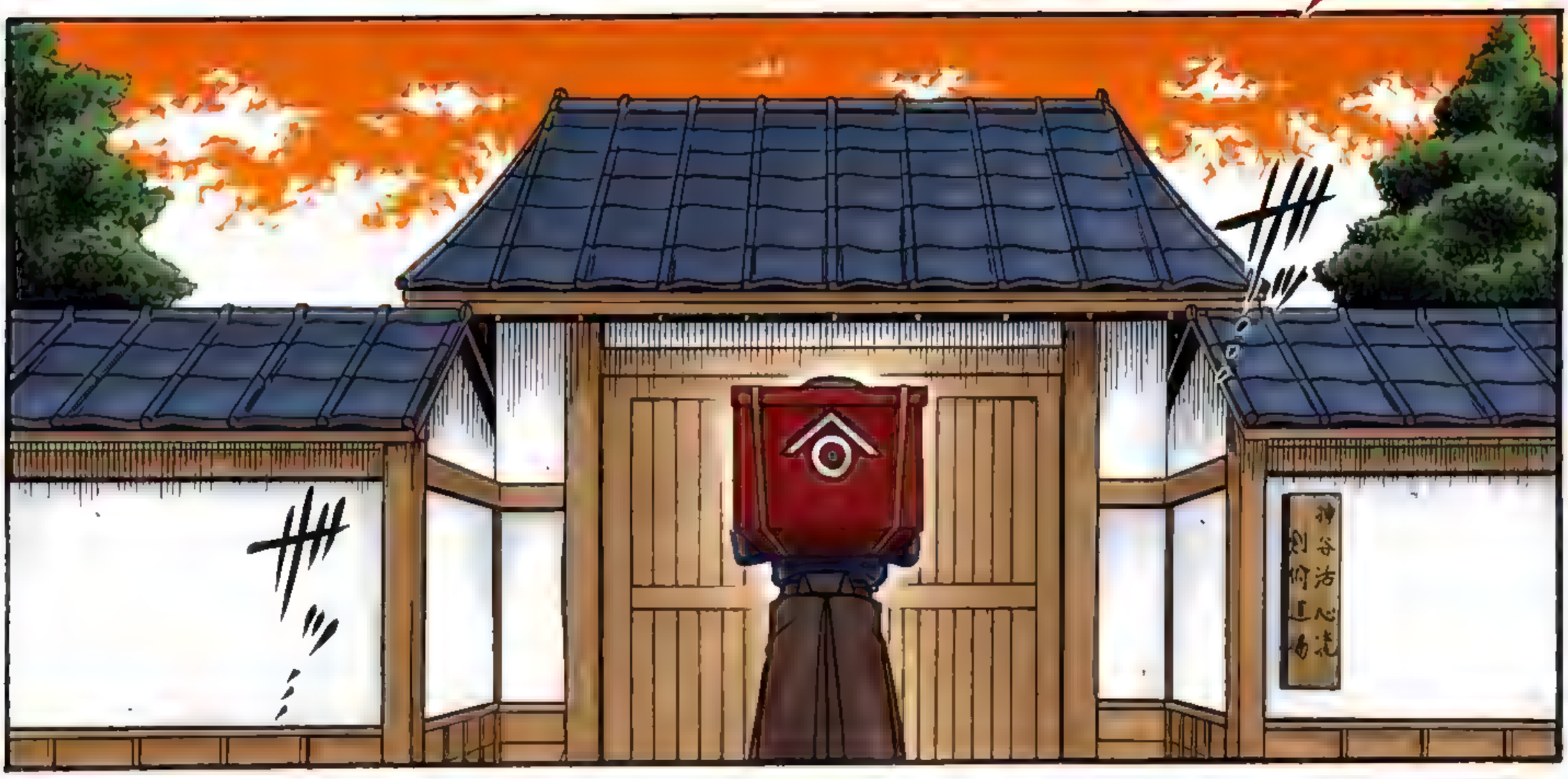
LET'S GO!

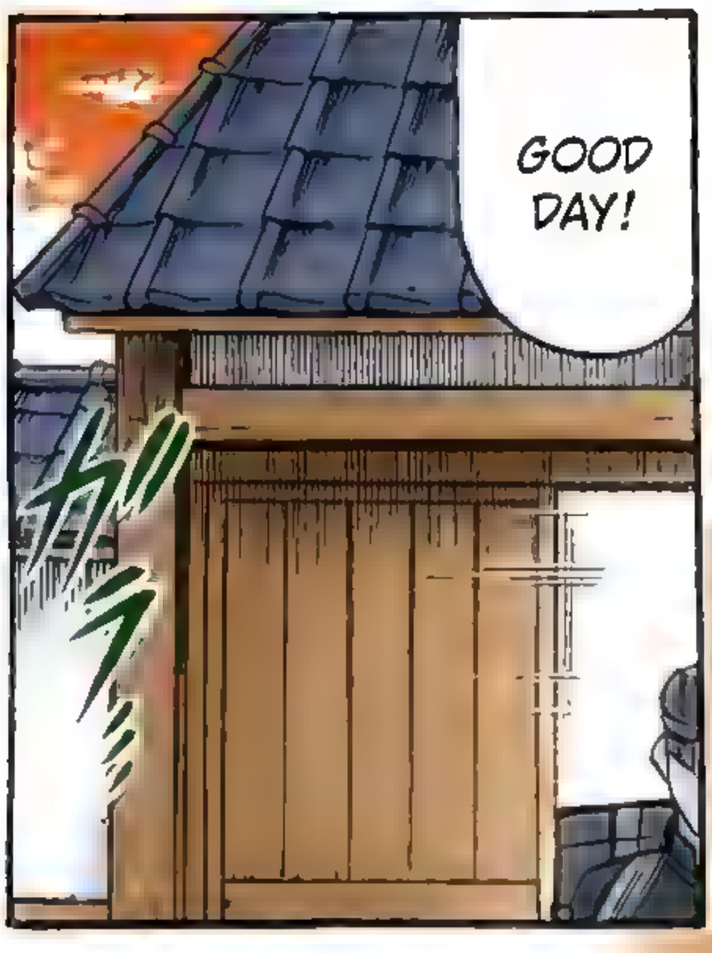
COME ON, WHAT'RE YOU JUST STANDING THERE FOR?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

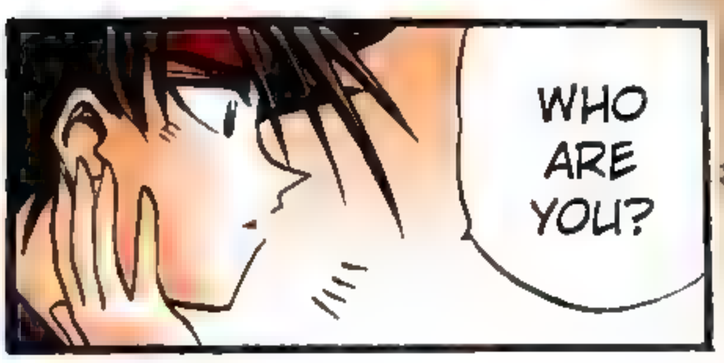
...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN DREAMING LATELY AT ALL,

SO WHY NOW...?


神谷活心流
剣術道場


GOOD DAY!

DAMN.
ALL I WANTED WAS SOME FOOD.
WHERE ARE THOSE GUYS?


WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS...

FUJITA GOROU.

HOW DO YOU DO? I'M A PEDDLER FROM TAMA.

I HAVE SOME UNUSUAL MEDICINES CALLED ISHIDA POWDER.

ゴトッ

HEY, YOU.

YES?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

OH, I SEE.

HOLD IT, HOLD IT.

HOW ABOUT IT? ISHIDA POWDER WORKS ON BRUISES, EVEN BROKEN BONES...

I DON'T LIVE HERE. THEY'RE ALL OUT NOW.

THESE? HA HA, I WAS BORN THIS WAY.

WHAT'S WITH THOSE SLANTY EYES?

YOU'RE NO MEDICINE PEDDLER!

THOSE ARE SWORD CALLUSES.

THEN WHAT ABOUT THESE?

YOU'RE VERY PERCEPTIVE,

.....

WHO ARE YOU?

SAGARA SANOSUKE.

BATTOU-SAI'S NOT HOME.

IN THAT CASE ...

SO ...

!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR FROM THE START.

YOU WERE HIDING THAT THING...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE HIM...

THIS GUY KNOWS ABOUT KENSHIN'S PAST...

...A PRESENT.

AND ASK WHO YOU REALLY ARE...

WITH MY FISTS!

I'LL TAKE YOU ON!

ALL RIGHT!

ORA!!

YOU DESERVE THE RUMORS THAT SAY YOU'RE A GREAT FIGHTER.

I SEE. YOU HAVE A GOOD PUNCH.

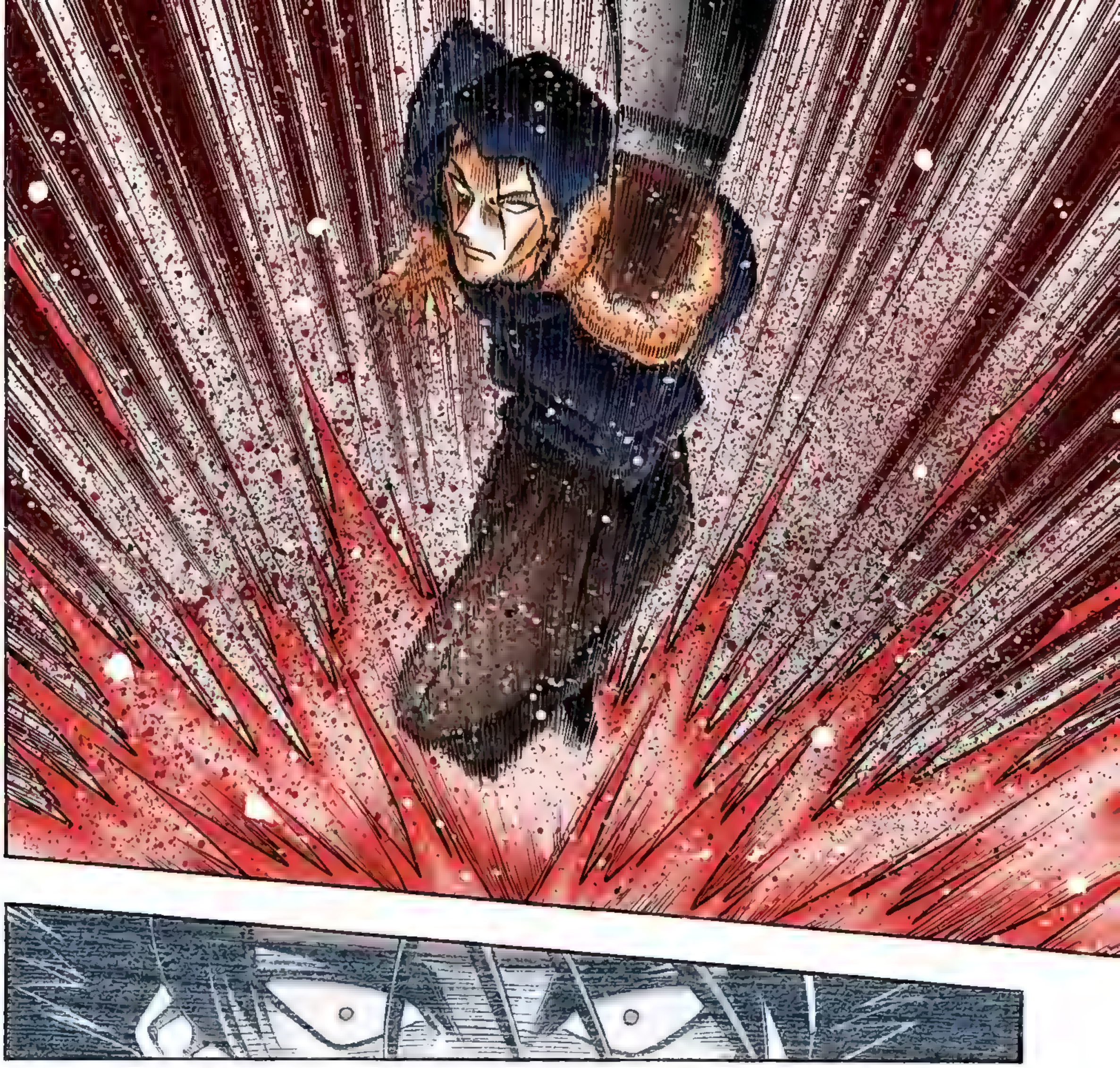
KA-BOOM

BUT THESE ARE RUMORS FROM THE PEACEFUL MEIJI ERA.

IT HAD NO EFFECT?!

IN KYOTO DURING THE BAKUMATSU, A PUNCH LIKE THAT...

WOULD GET YOU KILLED!



HE'S FAST!!

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

TYPESETTER: KOJOZERO
SCRIPT WRITER: KOJOZERO
CLEANER: KOJOZERO
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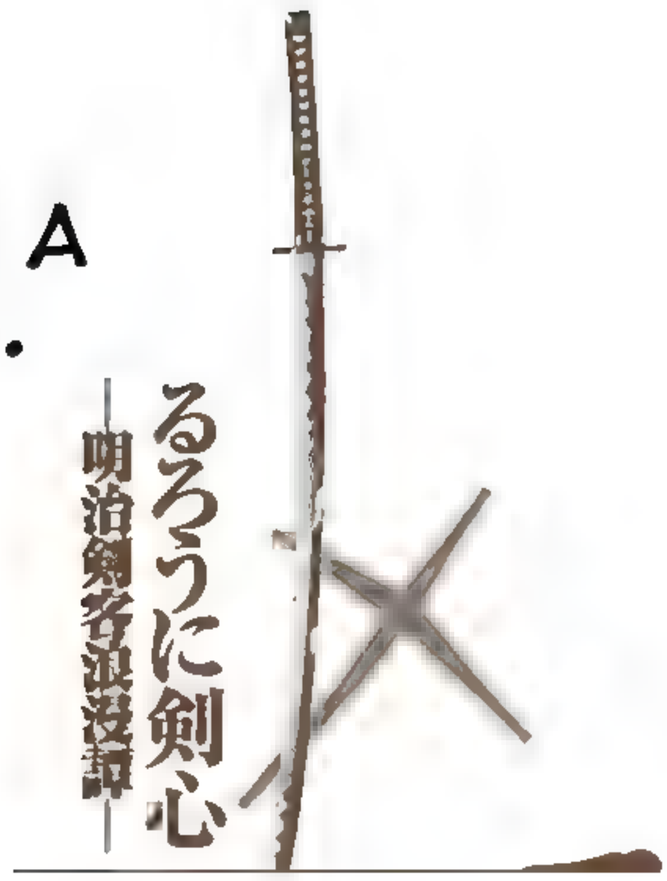
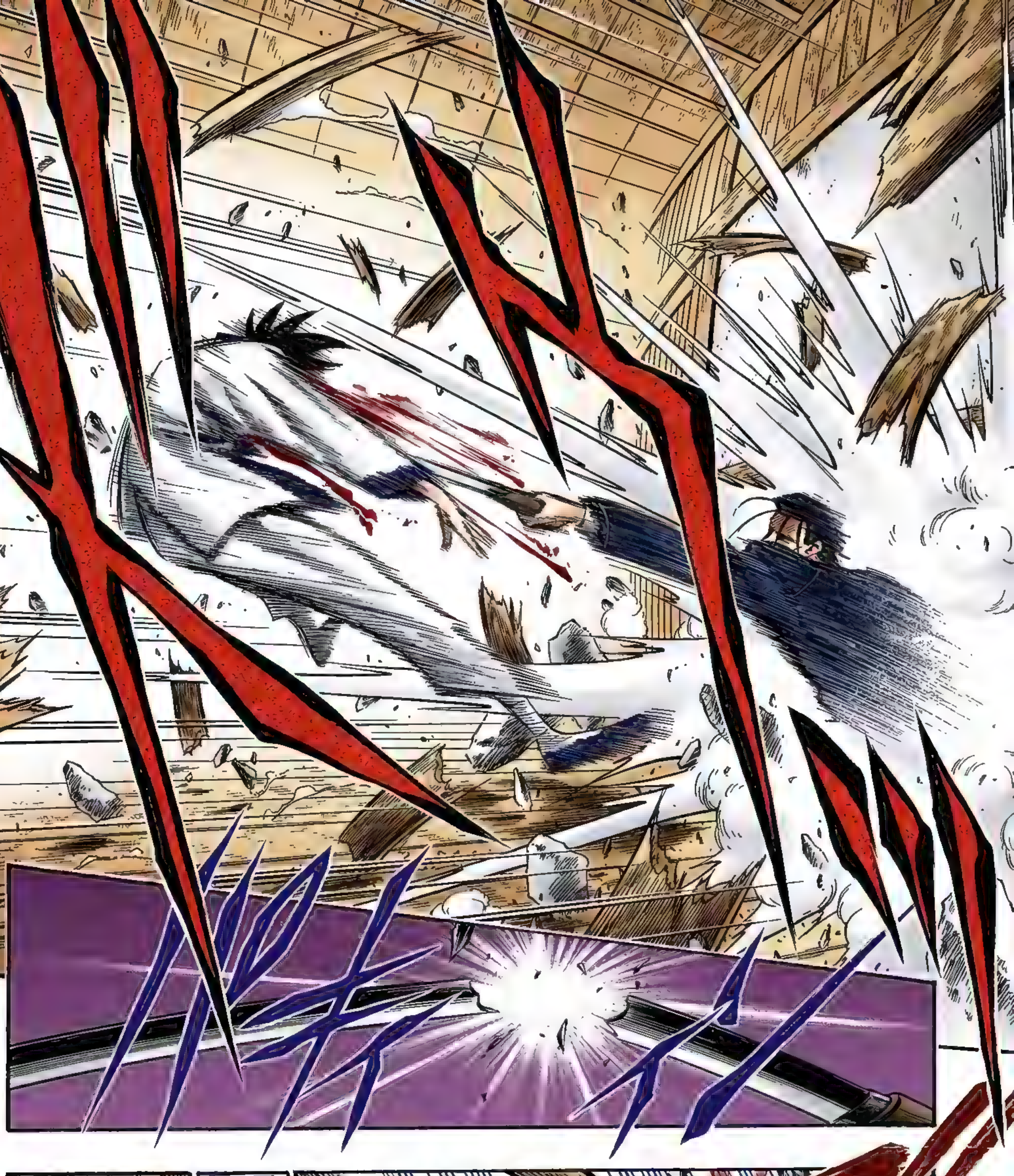


ACT 049: THE CRUELTY OF A WOLF

UAGH
!!



OH MY.

JAPANESE SWORDS ARE, AFTER ALL, THE BEST...

IT'S CONVENIENT TO CARRY A SWORD CANE, BUT THEY'RE ABOUT AS STRONG AS TOYS.

WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

WHERE'RE YOU GOING, YOU SLIT-EYED BASTARD?

ボタ…

ボタ…

YOUR WOUND ISN'T LIFE THREATENING, BUT IT'S FAIRLY DEEP.

BUT IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU JUST QUIETLY WENT TO SLEEP.

YOU SHOW GOOD SPIRIT.

THE FIGHT STARTS NOW!

SHUT UP! I MAY BE WOUNDED, BUT YOUR SWORD IS BROKEN!

AGH!!

SLEEP.

!!

WHY ARE YOU WALKING SO SLOW, KENSHIN?

HE DOESN'T LOOK WELL. I WONDER IF HIS STOMACH HURTS OR SOMETHING.

IF YOU KEEP DAWDLING IT'LL GET DARK.

HMM ...

OH, THAT'S MY CUE.

WE ALL COME AND GO BENEATH HEAVEN.

WHY CAN'T OUR PATHS SIMPLY CROSS?

WHY, ARE YOU THAT SURPRISED?

ME-MEGUMI!!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

OHH, AND WHO WAS IT THAT TREATED YUTA, HMM? AND FOR FREE!?

NO WAY! NO VIXEN IS ALLOWED IN MY HOUSE!

I HAVE TODAY AND TOMORROW OFF...

ACTUALLY,

SO I THOUGHT I'D COME OVER AND PLAY.

ACTUALLY SHE WAS PAID AFTER BY YUZAEMON

YAHIKO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'LL COOK DINNER.

GRR...

TRAITOR !!!

FINE BY ME. DON'T BE SO MEAN, KAORU.

HMM ...

IS IT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU IF I COME OVER?

KEN-SAN,

I SHOULD STOP FRETTING ...

NO, I'M FINE. IT'S NOTHING.

IT'LL ONLY CAUSE THEM TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

DO YOU WANT ME TO HAVE A LOOK AT YOU?

OH, YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK WELL.

!

AFTER ALL, THOSE DAYS HAVE ALREADY PASSED AWAY, LONG AGO...

THERE'S NO POINT IN THINKING SO MUCH ABOUT IT.

EVEN IF I WAS DREAMING OF THE OLD DAYS, A DREAM IS STILL A DREAM.

ｶﾞﾗﾗﾗ...

THE SMELL OF BLOOD...?!

WHAT ON EARTH...?

THIS ...

SANO!!

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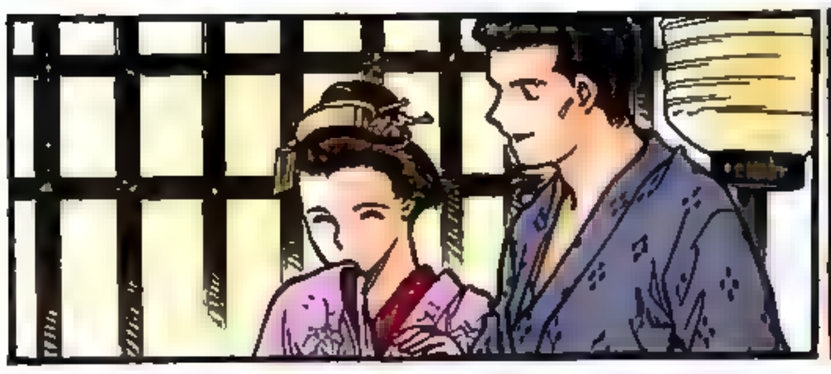
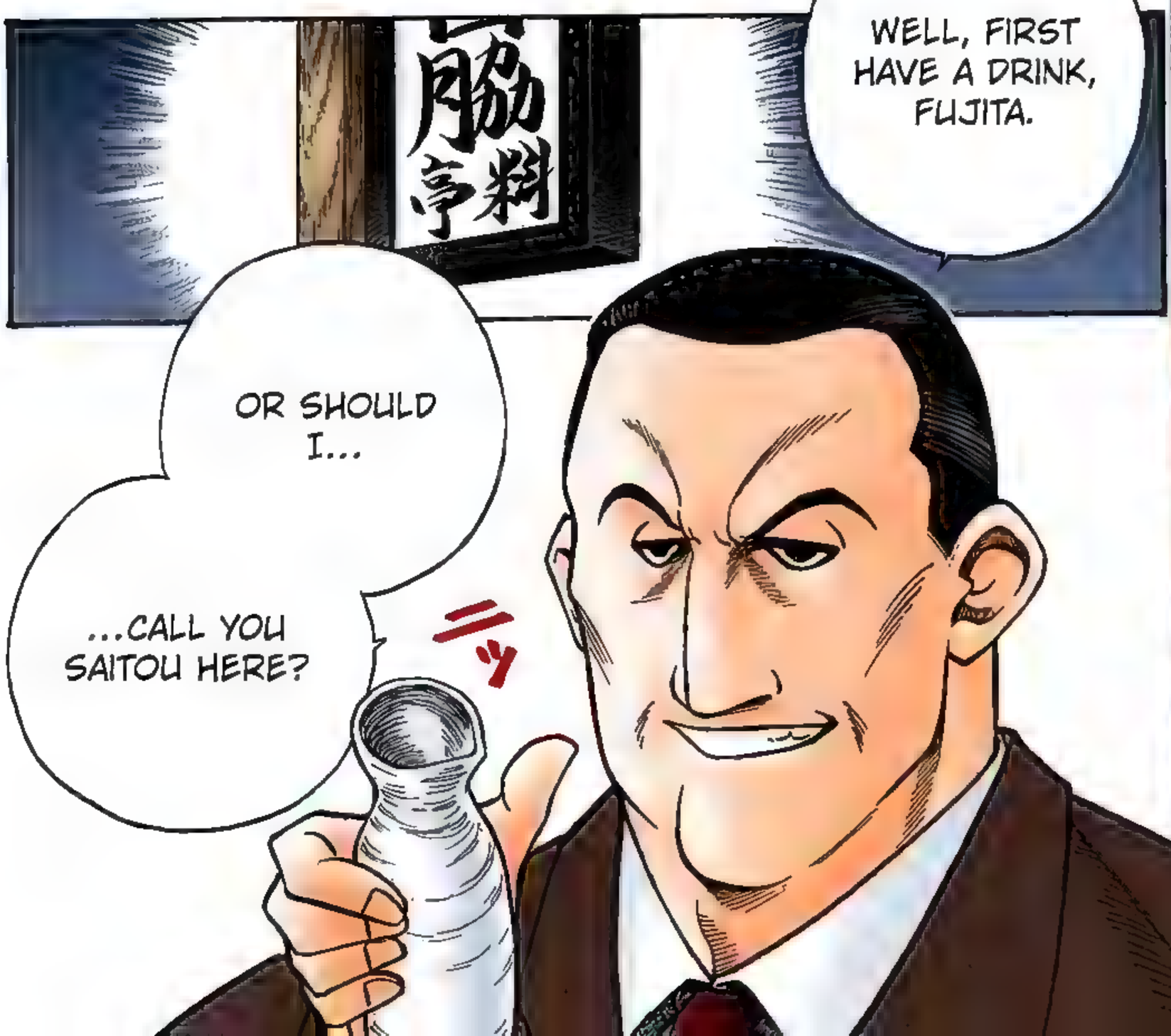
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ




WELL, FIRST HAVE A DRINK, FUJITA.
OR SHOULD I...
...CALL YOU SAITOU HERE?

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE A NON DRINKER.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.

HOWEVER. NO DRINK FOR ME TONIGHT, PLEASE.

CALL ME AS YOU LIKE.

SINCE IT'S THE MEIJI ERA NOW, I MUST REFRAIN.

YOU SEE. I HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL,

IT WAS MY NATURE WHEN I DRANK TO WANT TO KILL EXCESSIVELY.

HIMURA BATTOU-SAI IS NOW...

THEN LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

HA HA HA! YOU ARE VERY PROMISING INDEED.

AH ...

I WENT THERE EARLIER TODAY.

AT THE KAMIYA DOJO.

THANK YOU.

BUT HE WASN'T HOME.

OH? AND THEN?

TO FIND THAT THE MAN BEHIND THE BLACK HAT CASE, UDOU JIN-E'S BOSS, WAS SHIBUMI-SAN, ORIGINALLY SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE.

I WAS SURPRISED AS WELL...

WHEN I HEARD YOU'D BEEN ADDED TO OUR GROUP I WAS SURPRISED.

BUT NOW I'M RELIEVED TO FIND THE "JOB" IS IN SUCH CAPABLE HANDS.

YOU'RE ALL I EXPECTED FROM THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHINSENGUMI THIRD UNIT.

KILLING IS MY SPECIALTY, SO THIS WORK IS ALL I COULD DESIRE AS A SIDELINE.

IF I CAN SPEND THE REMAINDER OF MY LIFE AT SOMETHING INTERESTING, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

INDEED, BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, SINCE MY SIDE LOST THE WAR.

WELL, THERE ARE LOT OF THINGS GOING ON IN THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT RIGHT NOW.

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO ASSASSINATE A VAGABOND WANDERING THE COUNTRYSIDE?

WHO COMMISSIONED THIS JOB?

EVEN SO, ONE THING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

'SPECIALLY IF THE JOB IS ELIMINATING AN OLD ENEMY...

EXCUSE ME. I TALK TOO MUCH.

ス...

HEY!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

BUT I SHOULD BE RETURNING TO MY REAL JOB BEFORE THEY GROW SUSPICIOUS.

I'D BE HAPPY TO,

WELL, WHY DON'T WE FORGET ABOUT THE JOB FOR NOW AND ENJOY SOME ENTER-TAINMENT?

NO, AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND.

SO,

I WILL EXCUSE MYSELF HERE.

AFTER THE NEW ERA. HE CHANGED HIS NAME TO FUJITA GOROU AND FOUGHT AS A MEMBER OF THE SWORD BEARING POLICE IN THE SOUTHWEST WAR. NOW, HE'S EMPLOYED AS A POLICE OFFICER.

CAPTAIN OF THE THIRD UNIT OF THE SHINSENGUMI. SAITOU HAJIME.

SOME SAY HE WAS THE STRONGEST OF THE SHINSENGUMI. STRONGER EVEN THAN OKITA SOUSHI.

カッ

ヤ

カッ

ヤ

EVEN JIN-E COULDN'T DESTROY BATTOUSAI,

BUT THIS MAN...

FEH!

FROM NOW ON YOU'RE TO WELCOME HIM TO OUR GROUP AS JIN-E'S REPLACEMENT.

YOU'RE PREJUDICED, AKAMATSU.

I DON'T LIKE HIM.

HE SMILES TOO MUCH.

BUT IF WE DO THIS WELL WE CAN SAY GOODBYE TO THE DIRTY WORK OF ASSASSINATIONS THAT I FIRST NEEDED TO RISE IN THE WORLD.

I WAS COMPLETELY AT A LOSS ABOUT THE COMMISSION OF BATTOUSAI'S DEATH.

THEY CALLED THE SHINSEN-GUMI THE MIBURO...

AND MY SUCCESS IN INTERESTING MATTER WILL BE DUE TO A MAN FROM THE SHINSENGUMI WHO THREATENED US SO MERCILESSLY DURING THE BAKUMATSU.

NOTE: MIBURO = WOLVES OF MIBU

BUT IN THE MEIJI ERA, THEY'RE NOTHING BUT TOOTHLESS LAP DOGS...

IT'S TOO DARK. I CAN'T SEE THE WOUND!

SANO...

EVEN CANDLES WILL DO! I NEED MORE LIGHT!

THIS UNCOMMON DESTRUC-TION...

AND...

THIS ROUND SEAL WITH A TRIANGULAR ON THE MEDICINE BOX...

A BROKEN BLADE DRIVEN HORIZONTALLY INTO THE WOUND...

COULD THIS BE HIS DOING?

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

TYPESETTER: KOJOZERO
SCRIPT WRITER: KOJOZERO
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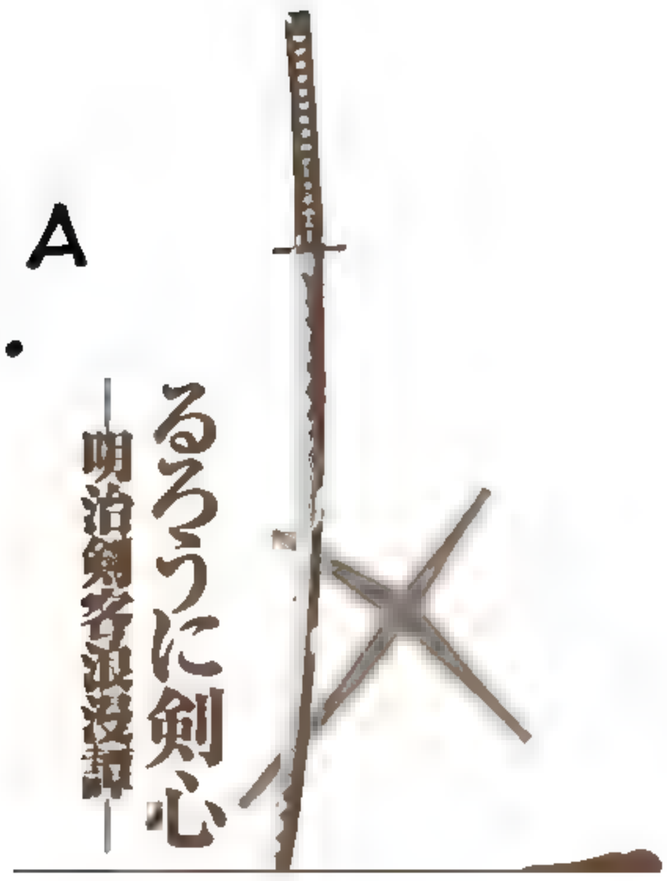


ACT 050: MANEUVERS OF A PLAN

HOWEVER, THREE DAYS HAVE ALREADY PASSED ...

AND HE STILL HASN'T REGAINED HIS CONSCIOUS-NESS...

SANOSUKE'S LIFE WAS SAVED.

"THE WOUND WAS DEEP, BUT HE'S LUCKY THERE WAS NO INJURY TO THE INTERNAL ORGANS." SAID MEGUMI.

ガラ…

MEGUMI.

HOW IS HE?

THANKS. I'LL DO THAT.

THE BATH'S FREE.

I'LL WATCH SANOSUKE, SO TAKE YOUR TIME. YOU LOOK TIRED.

SAME AS EVER STILL SLEEPING.

YOU'D NEVER THINK SHE'S A DOCTOR ...

I'M JUST GOING TO STICK HIM IN A COFFIN AND BURY HIM ANYWAY.

べし べし べし

UGH...

HE'S STRONG AS A COCKROACH. SO HE'LL BE FINE. BUT IF HE DOESN'T WAKE UP SOON,

SAME AS EVER.

HE'S THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING WITH A SCARY LOOK ON HIS FACE.

YES.

IS KEN-SAN IN THE DOJO AGAIN?

MEDICINE BOXES WITH THIS SYMBOL WERE USED BY SHINSENGUMI SPIES TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES.

THE POINT OF THE BLADE WAS STABBED HORIZONTALLY, A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE SHINSENGUMI UNIQUE TECHNIQUE CALLED HIRATSUKI.

IT COULD ONLY BE CAUSED BY HIS SPECIAL LEFT-HANDED HIRATSUKI, THE GATOTSU...

AND THIS DESTRUCTIVE FORCE...

NO MATTER HOW I THINK OF IT,

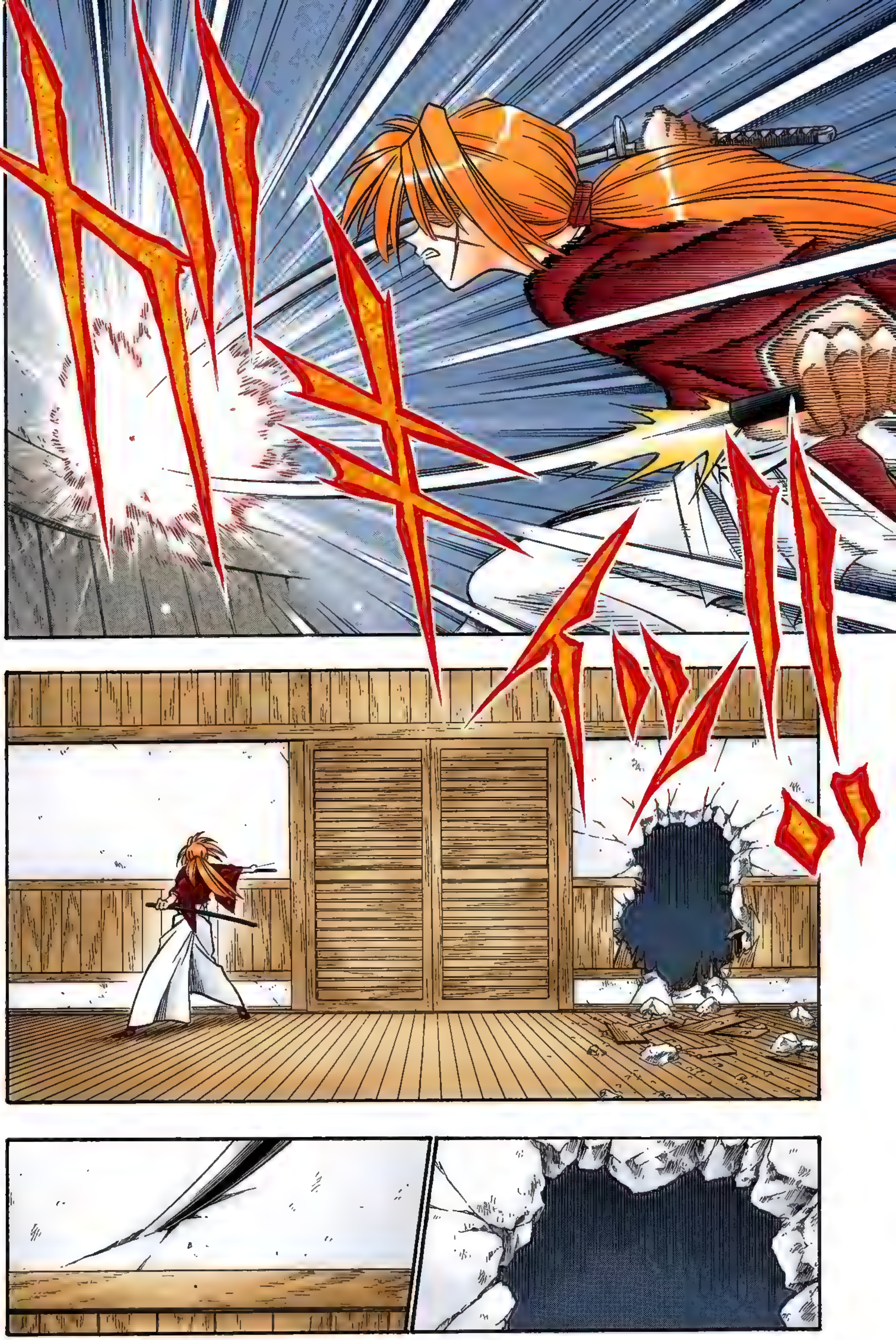
IT HAS TO BE HIS WORK.

NOTE: HIRATSUKI = HORIZONTAL THRUST, GATOTSU = FANG TRUST

COME TO SETTLE WHAT WE NEVER FINISHED...?

OR DOES HE HAVE SOME OTHER INTENTION?

THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHINSENGUMI THIRD UNIT, SAITOU HAJIME.



WITH THE SAKABATOU AND MY VOW NOT TO KILL...

WILL I BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM?

IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN HE WAS CALLED THE MIBURO...

SAITOU HAJIME'S SKILL WITH THE SWORD HAS NOT RUSTED AT ALL...

OOPS!

KAORU-DONO'S GONNA KILL ME...

OH NO!

はっ!!

EPISODE 1

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR MEAL.

THANK YOU.

THERE YOU ARE.

ばそお

TIME TO EAT.

WELL,

パチン

NOT MUCH OF A MEAL, IS IT,

HUH? JUST A PLAIN BOWL OF SOBA?

SAITOU-SAN?

DO YOU WANT SOME-THING?

...AKAMATSU-SAN WAS IT?

AND I'M FUJITA NOW.

I LIKE PLAIN SOBA.

ずるっ...

THAT YOU ANNOY ME.

I DON'T WANT ANY THING.

IT'S JUST,

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU WANNA FIGHT, HURRY UP AND FIGHT.

AND YOU BETTER KILL HIM QUICKLY.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEONE WILL BE THERE TO STAB YOU IN THE BACK.

THIS JOB SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE.

BUT WHEN SHIBUMI HEARD ABOUT A FORMER SHINSENGUMI GUY, HE GAVE IT TO THE NEWCOMER.

NOTHING, I'M SORRY.

カリ

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

コト

HEH HEH!

ズズ…

THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE YOU.

I UNDERSTAND, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE ANNOYED.

SO WHY DON'T WE WORK TOGETHER?

THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I LEFT HIM HIS PRESENT. I WAS GAVE HIM SOME CLUES.

BY NOW, BATTOUSAI SHOULD KNOW THAT IT WAS ME.

I'LL EXPLAIN.

WHA... WHAT?

IF I SEND HIM A LETTER, WHETHER IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH FIGHTING OR NOT, HE WOULD BE CERTAIN TO FALL FOR IT.

BUT FROM THAT ALONE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GUESS MY INTENTIONS.

WHY WOULD YOU GIVE HIM UP SO EASILY?

BATTOUSAI'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN OLD ENEMY OF YOURS.

NOT BAD...

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.

BUT,

WHY IS THAT?

SO YOU'LL SEND HIM A CHALLENGE.

AND YOU'LL BRING HIM DOWN.

AS I SAID, I ONLY WISH TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF MY LIFE DOING SOMETHING INTERESTING.

I CALLED HIM MY OLD ENEMY, BEFORE SHIBUMI-SAN. BUT THE TRUTH IS BY NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH TO ME.

THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN GORO FUJITA IS.

RATHER THAN DANGER AND RICHES,

I'LL AIM FOR CERTAINTY AND A SMALL WAGE.

BUT REMEMBER ONE THING,

THE TOP MAN IN THIS ASSASSINATION GROUP IS ME!

スッ…

I LIKE WHAT I HEAR.

IT'S UNFOR-
TUNATE,

BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING THE BEST OF THE "FROGS IN THE WELL," WHO KNOW NOTHING OF THE GREAT OCEAN.

ズズ…

……

HEY. KENSHIN!

KAORU SAYS TO RUN INTO TOWN AND BUY SOME TOFU.

SO BE SURE TO LOCK THE DOORS.

I MAY BE LATE,

I'M SORRY YAHIKO, BUT I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.

AH! DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE TO GO?

LOOK DO

.....

SOME BUSI-NESS?

SAITOU!

DON'T BE MODEST.

SHOW YOURSELF!

WHO ARE YOU?

FEH. YOU FENDED OFF MY CHAIN WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

AS I EXPECTED FROM THE BATTOUSAI I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.

THE MAN WHO WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE.

ARUNDO AKAMATSU.

REALLY.

THANKS.

UH-HUH. HE SAID HE MIGHT BE LATE.

HERE'S YOUR TOFU.

BUSI-NESS?

KENSHIN DOES?

BUT THAT'S STRANGE.

WHERE WOULD KENSHIN HAVE BUSINESS BESIDES HERE?

THERE'S ONLY THE AKABEKO AND THE MAEKAWA DOJO...

HOW CAN YOU ONLY HAVE SUCH TERRIBLE IDEAS?

OW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT ME!

ドカッ

ドゴス

I'VE GOT IT! IT'S A WOMAN

HE'S BEEN HERE FOR THREE MONTHS AND THERE'S ONE OR TWO...

チャカ

チャカ

EXCUSE ME.

!!

I WAS TOLD THAT THIS WAS THE DOJO WHERE HIMURA BATTOUSAI LIVED.

MY NAME IS FUJITA. I'VE JUST BEEN ASSIGNED TO THIS TOWN.

THE CHIEF TOLD ME ABOUT HIMURA.

OH, HE WORKS FOR THE CHIEF...

UNFORTU-NATELY KENSHIN ISN'T HERE NOW, BUT...

OH, IS THAT SO...

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I WAITED HERE FOR HIM?

UM... CERTAINLY. I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT BE LATE, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND...

OF COURSE NOT.

!!

THE TRUTH IS, WHILE IT'S STILL NOT CONFIRMED, WE RECEIVED WORD THAT HIMURA WAS BEING TARGETED BY A GANG OF OUTLAWS.

KEN-SHIN!!

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

TYPESETTER: KOJOZERO
SCRIPT WRITER: KOJOZERO
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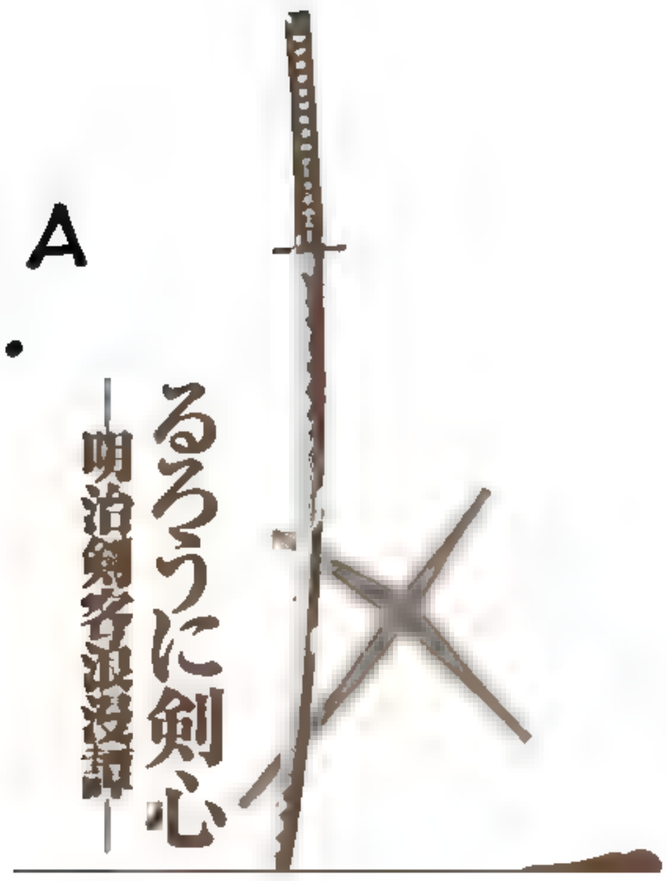

第五十一幕「対峙」

IT'S A FAMILIAR THING FOR ME TO BE TARGETED.

DON'T WORRY.

GOOD CAUSE ...?

FIRST TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE.

BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING MY LIFE WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE.

I'LL LAY IT ON YOUR GRAVE!

I CAN SEE YOU!

YOU'RE ON MY LEFT!

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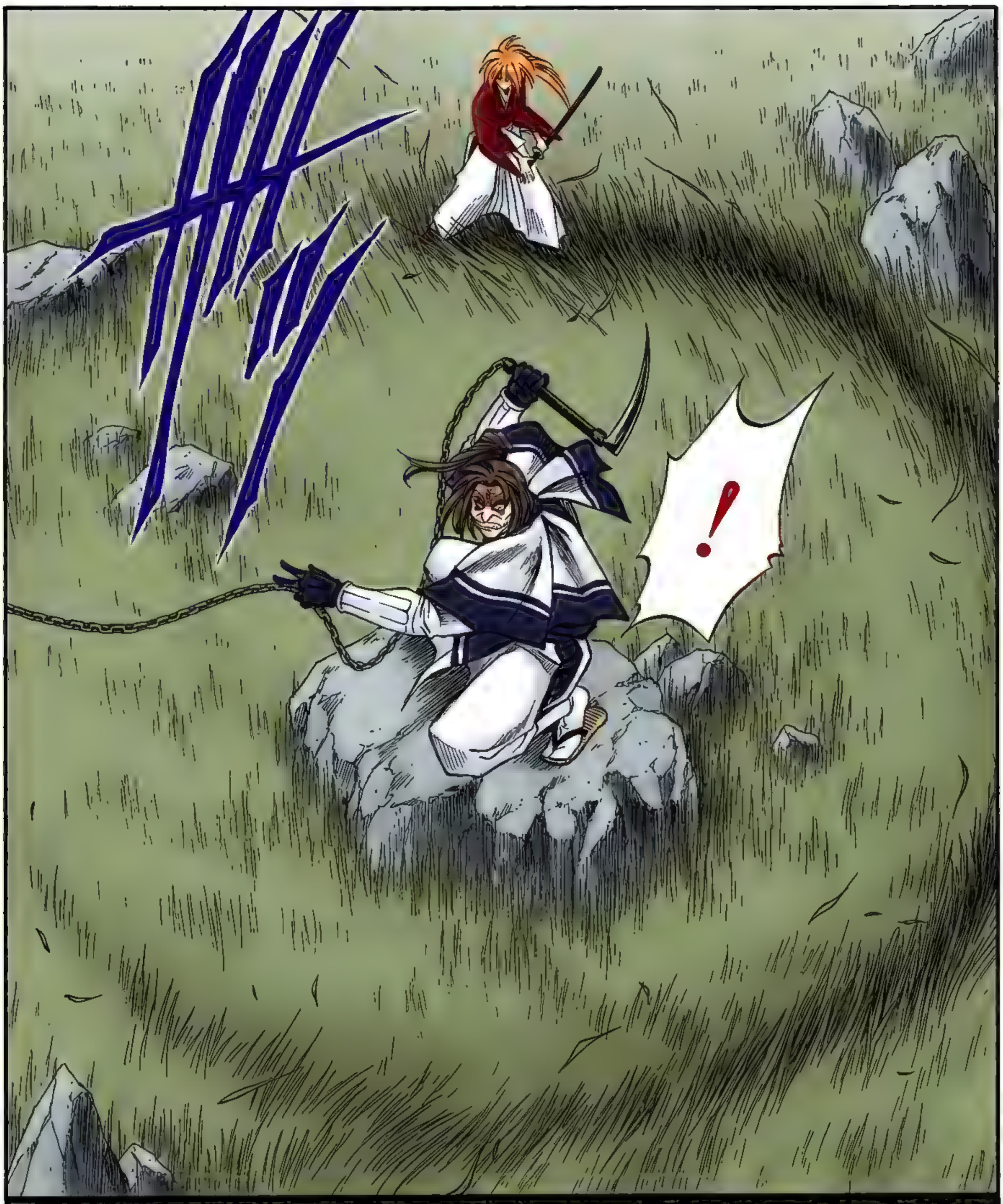


ACT 051: CONFRONTATION

I DIDN'T INTEND TO MOVE THAT FAST.

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

DID YOU SEE MY SHADOW?

ARGH!!

WHY YOU...!

WHAT THE?!

WHA...?

AGH!!

HAH!

……

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.

GIVE UP.

ジャラ…

AH

WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION WITH SAITOU?

ANSWER ME. WHO ARE YOU?

IT WAS MY FAULT!

I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT! BUT SAITOU FORCED ME TO!

I'M SORRY!

YE...YES!

TO SEND SUCH A WEAKLING... WHAT IS SAITOU THINKING?

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL YOU SAY, BUT...

LEARN FROM THIS MISTAKE AND WASH YOUR HANDS OF THIS MATTER.

THAT GUY LEAVES ME NO CHOICE BUT TO RESORT TO THESE TACTICS...

MERE SMALL FRY

YOU 'IDIOT!'

HAHAHA!! DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD GIVE UP SO EASILY?

CONCEALED CHAINS?!

BOTH OF YOUR HANDS ARE COMPLETELY CAUGHT.

FEH. YOUR REACTION TO PROTECT YOUR THROAT WAS VERY NEAT, BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

YOU CAN'T MOVE!

IT'S OVER!

OOF!

BUT BY RESTRICTING YOUR MOVEMENTS, I HAVE TURNED THIS INTO A MATCH OF STRENGTH!

YOU'RE A LITTLE FASTER THAN ME.

HE'S NOT DEAD...

YET.

YES!

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO KILLED SANOSUKE!

SOMEONE'S AFTER KEN-SAN?

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT KENSHIN ISN'T HERE

WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

IF IT'S TRUE WE'D HAVE NO WAY TO RECOGNIZE THEM.

UNLIKE THIS PEACEFULLY SLEEPING IDIOT.

UGH ...

EVEN IF KENSHIN'S ALONE WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM.

STOP PLAYING DEAD! I WANT TO GO HOME!

THAT'S TRUE...

AT LEAST THE OFFICER THE CHIEF SENT IS HERE, SO IT'S SAFER THAN OUTSIDE.

WELL, WE CAN'T GO OUT LOOKING FOR HIM IN THE DARK.

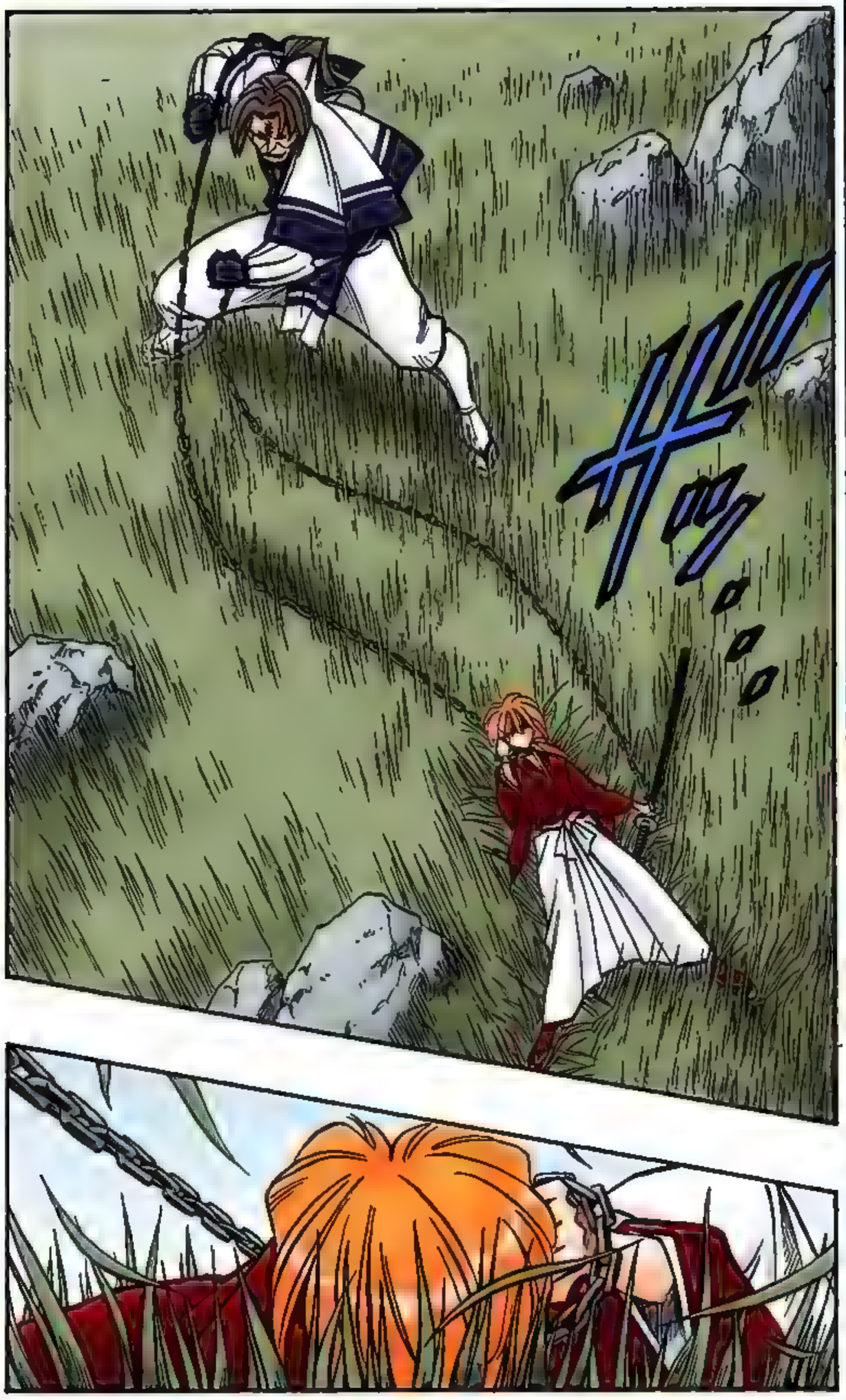
JAPANESE KATANAS ARE, AFTER ALL, THE BEST.

I OBTAINED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO CARRY THIS.

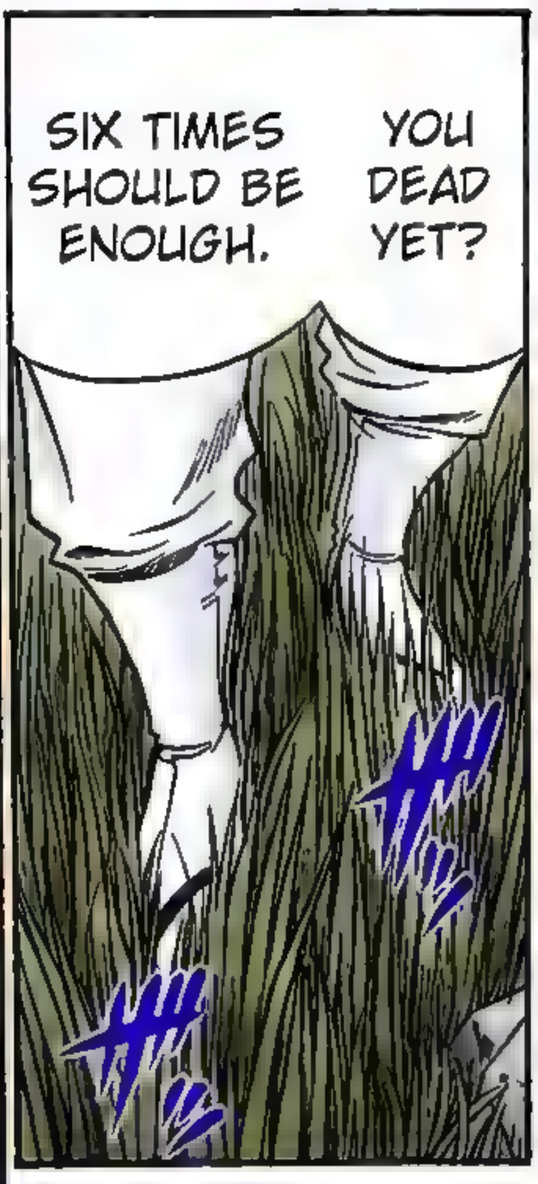
SABRES ARE FRAGILE AND UNRELIABLE.

I THOUGHT ALL POLICE CARRIED WESTERN SABRES.

BUT YOU'VE GOT A JAPANESE KATANA.


HUH

SAITOU AND I ARE, JUST LIKE JIN-E, ASSASSINS HIRED BY POLITICIANS. I DON'T KNOW THE REASON WHY.
I PROMISED TO LAY THE TRUTH ON YOUR GRAVE.


SIX TIMES SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
YOU DEAD YET?

ALL THE GUYS STILL LIVING IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE STUFF BURIED IN THEIR PASTS.

BECAUSE OF THE BLACK HAT CASE, THESE GUYS FOUND OUT WHERE YOU WERE.

THEY PROBABLY WANTED US TO KEEP YOU FROM TELLING ANYONE ABOUT WHAT WENT ON DURING THE BAKUMATSU.

AND I HEARD HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING TRAITORS OF THE COMPANY.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, SAITOU ENFORCED DISCIPLINE IN THE SHINSEN-GUMI.

HMM ...

!?

ヒュン

I SEE.

SO SAITOU HAJIME IS AN ASSASSIN LIKE UDOU JIN-E.

HE TOOK ALL SIX HITS?!

EVEN IN THE MEIJI ERA,

HE'S STILL DOING SUCH FOOLISH THINGS...

YOU'LL DIE FOR SURE SMASHED AGAINST THIS ROCK!

WHAT THE?!

IN THIS POSITION, I CAN'T USE BOTH MY HANDS!

SHIT!

AHH!

SHIT! SHIT!

AH-
HH-
HH!!

ザア

ザア

KEN-
SHIN!

神谷活心流

WAITED OUTSIDE THE DOOR FOR TWO HOURS.

……

鎖…

WE WERE WORRIED. OH! YOU'RE HURT.

KAORU-DONO.

CHAIN MARKS?

ば

YOU WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING WEIRD OUT THERE, WERE YOU?

ORO?

ANYWAY, SOMEONE'S AFTER YOU.

YOU'D BETTER AVOID GOING OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE.

KAORU-DONO ...WHERE DID YOU HEAR...?

THE POLICE.

THE CHIEF SENT SOMEONE TO TELL YOU.

カリ…

HE'S AN ASSISTANT POLICE INSPECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICE...

AND A MEMBER OF THE SWORD-BEARINGS POLICE, GOROU FUJITA.

IT SEEMS FROM YOUR CONDITION THAT AKAMATSU GAVE YOU SOME TROUBLE.

YOU HAVE INDEED...

BECOME WEAK!

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

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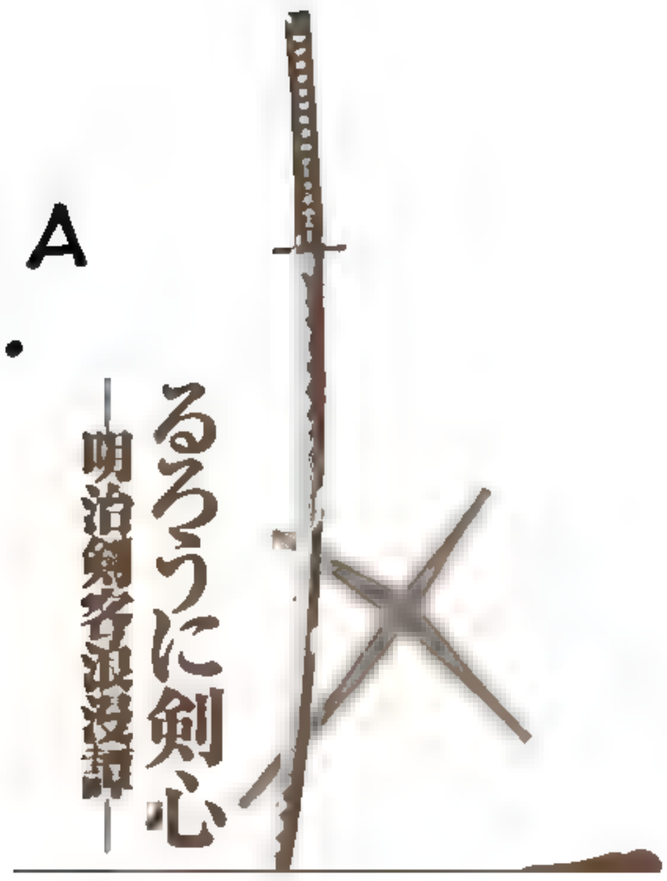


第五十二幕「牙を剝く狼」

WAS AT THE BATTLE OF TOBAFUSHIMI.

THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT,

ふん。。。

KENSHIN, YOU KNOW FUJITA-SAN?

TEN YEARS ...?

SO YOU ARE NOW KNOWN AS FUJITA?

!

SAITOU HAJIME!

CAPTAIN OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI THIRD UNIT.

SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT... TEN YEARS.

第五十二幕「牙を剝く狼」
ACT 052: THE WOLF BARES ITS FANGS
!!

THEN THE ONE GOING AFTER KENSHIN... IS YOU!

SHINSEN-GUMI...

TEN YEARS...

LONG ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO GO BAD.

YES.

IT'S ONLY TWO WORDS...

BUT TO LIVE IT IS A LONG TIME.

BACK THEN, DURING THE BAKUMATSU, DESPITE YOUR VICIOUSNESS.

YOU ALWAYS FOUGHT BY FAIR AND HONORABLE CHALLENGE.

UDOU JIN-E WAS TWISTED FROM THE BEGINNING,

BUT YOU WEREN'T.

.....

HEH HEH HEH ...

HAH HAH HAH ..!!

YOU AREN'T THE SAITOU HAJIME THAT I KNEW AS A WARRIOR.

SUCH CHEAP TRICKS WOULD HAVE BEEN BENEATH YOU.

SETTING YOUR DOG ON HIM AND USING THAT OPENING TO TAKE HOSTAGES...

ATTACKING AN ENEMY'S FRIEND TO SCARE HIM,

BAS-
TARD!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

I CAN'T HELP LAUGHING.

IT IS FUNNY, BOY.

HA HA HA !!

HA HA HA

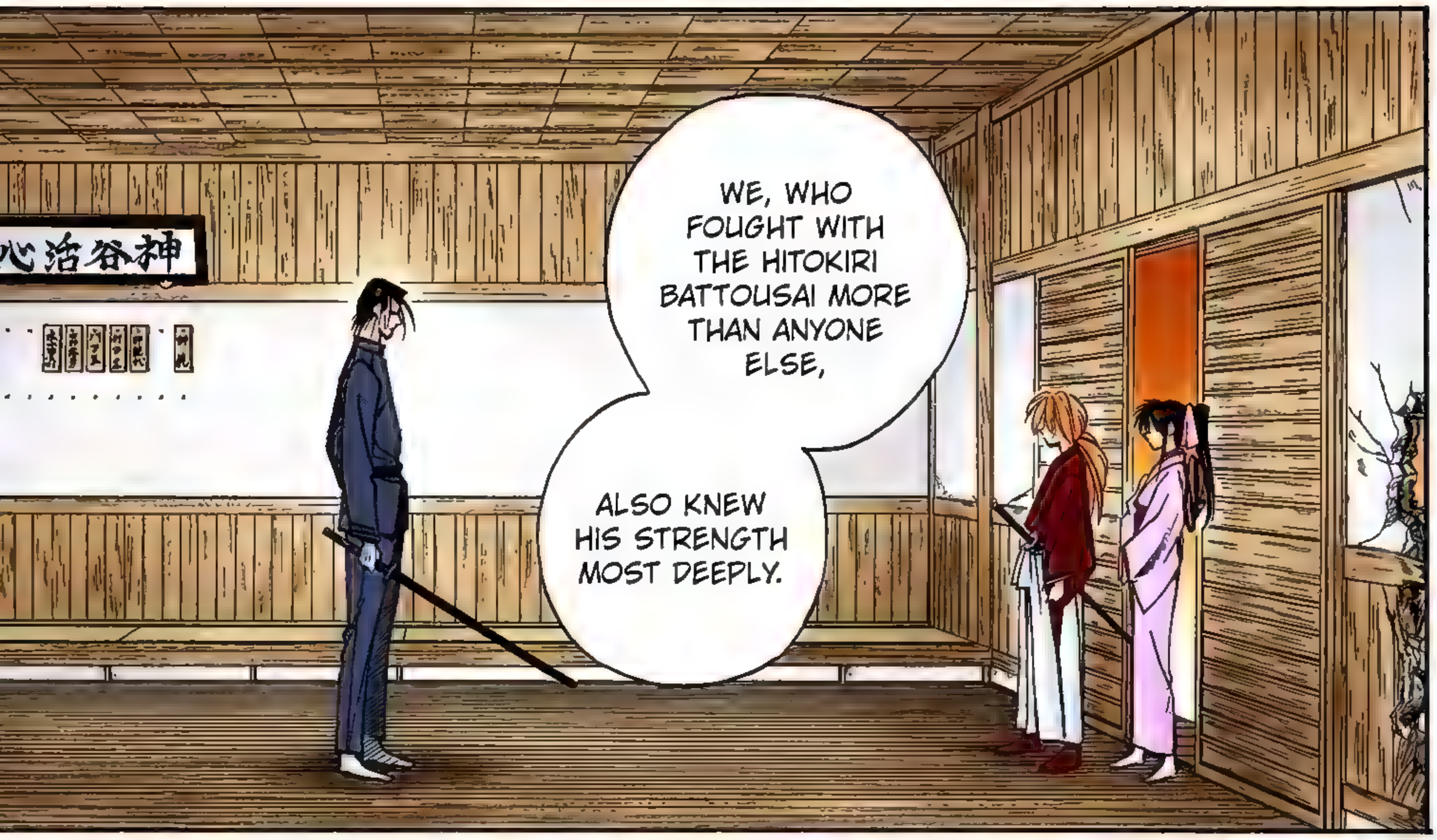
WHAT?

WHAT USE COULD I HAVE FOR SUCH A WEAKLING?

AKAMATSU MY DOG?

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOUR WITS TO HAVE DULLED AS WELL.

I KNEW YOUR SWORD HAD DULLED.


心活谷神
WE, WHO FOUGHT WITH THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE,
ALSO KNEW HIS STRENGTH MOST DEEPLY.

BUT NOW AKAMATSU GAVE YOU TROUBLE.

るろうに剣心
明治剣客浪漫譚

AS A RUROUNI WHO DOES NOT KILL...

KEN-SHIN...

...WEAK?

YOU HAVE BECOME WEAK!

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT YOU THINK.

SAITOU,

I NO LONGER NEED THE STRENGTH OF A HITOKIRI.

ALL I NEED IS THE STRENGTH OF A RUROUNI TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME.

!?

THEN YOU FAIL EVEN AS A RUROUNI.

THE STRENGTH OF A RUROUNI, WAS IT?

IF YOU INSIST ON SAYING SUCH THINGS.

KEN-SHIN...

HAVING PRESENTED MYSELF AS A MERE POLICE OFFICER, NO ONE SUSPECTED ANYTHING.

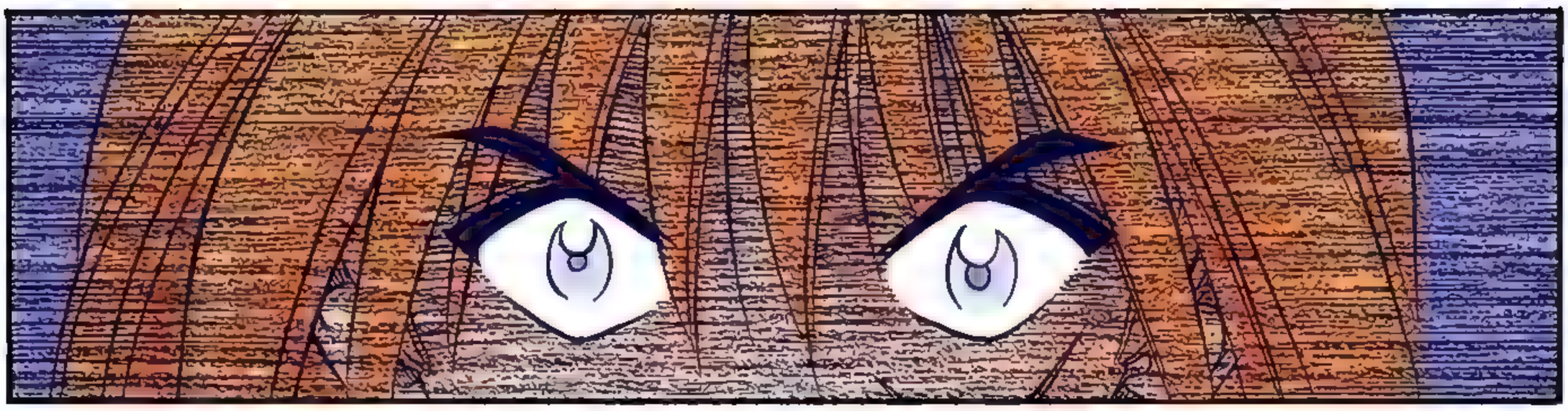
IN OTHER WORDS...

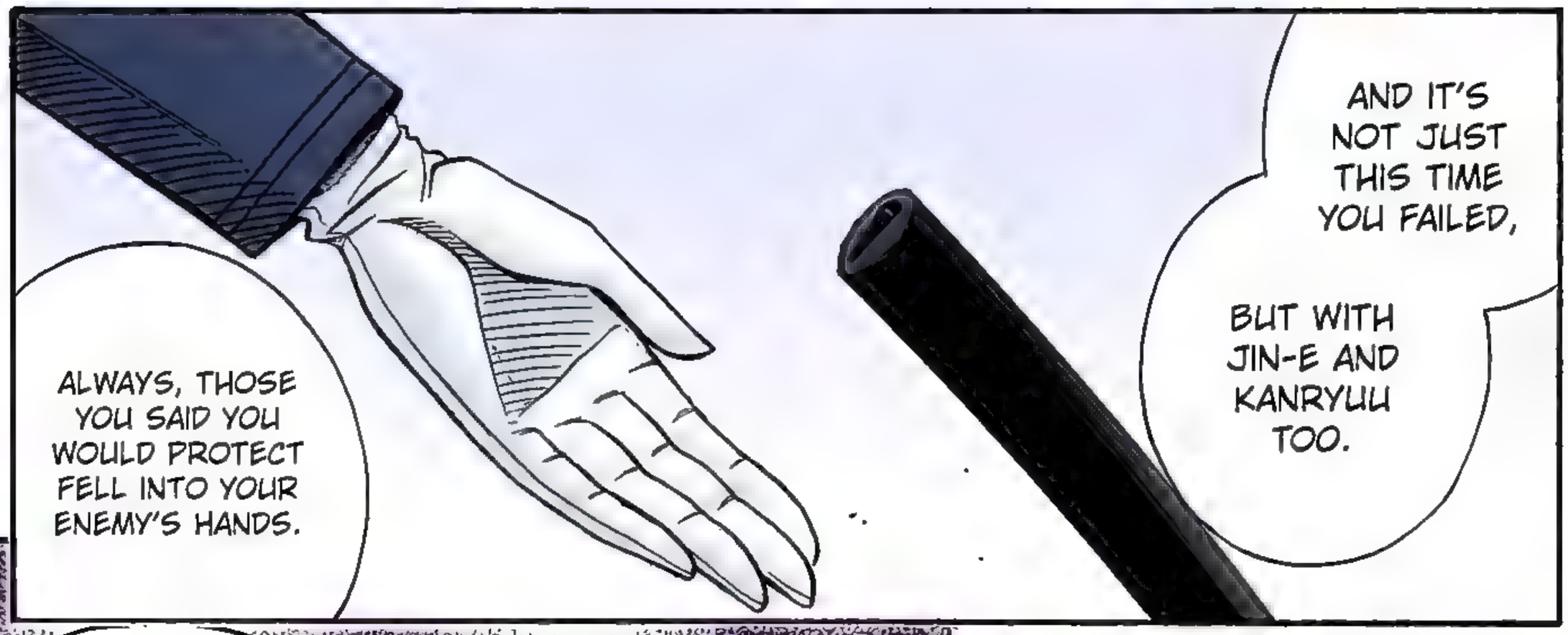
I WAS HERE ALL ALONG.

WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING A DESPERATE BATTLE WITH AKAMATSU,

...I COULD HAVE FREELY KILLED EVERYONE HERE AND YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN POWERLESS TO STOP ME.

IF I WANTED TO...




ALWAYS, THOSE YOU SAID YOU WOULD PROTECT FELL INTO YOUR ENEMY'S HANDS.
AND IT'S NOT JUST THIS TIME YOU FAILED,
BUT WITH JIN-E AND KANRYUU TOO.

THESE WORDS OF A HYPOCRITE MAKE ME SICK.
HAVING ONLY A FRAGMENT OF YOUR STRENGTH IS LIKE HAVING NOTHING AT ALL.
THE INCIDENT WITH RAIJUUTA DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO THE POLICE.
HE'S BEEN WATCHING KENSHIN ALL ALONG...!
AND IN THE END, BECAUSE OF THE FOOL RAIJUUTA,
ONE WILL BE SCARRED FOR LIFE.

BUT THAT MAY NOT LAST.

ONE DAY HE WILL FAIL.

EVER SINCE KENSHIN CAME,

NO ONE HAS EVER DIED!

BACK OFF!

.....

KENSHIN...

TEN YEARS IS ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO GO BAD.

BUT AS YOU SAID,

SO I SET AKAMATSU ON HIM.

THE BATTOUSAI WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS PERFECTLY.

WHY WOULD THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI PROTECT WITHOUT KILLING?

THIS RUROUNI WHO DOES NOT KILL IS DROWNING IN THE COMPLACENCY OF SO-CALLED JUSTICE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

NOTE: AKU = EVIL; SOKU = INSTANTLY; ZAN = SLAY.
MEANING: TO KILL/SLAY EVIL INSTANTLY.

THAT WAS THE ONE TRUTH WE SHINSENGUMI SHARED WITH THE HITOKIRI.

AKU.

SOKU.

ZAN!

THEN I CANNOT STAND TO SEE ANY MORE OF THIS.

IF YOU HAVE TRULY FORGOTTEN THAT CODE,

I WILL NEVER KILL AGAIN.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY,

REALLY?

COME,

I WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW WRONG YOU ARE.

DO YOU WANT THE GATOTSU TO HIT THE GIRL AS YOU LOOK ON?

WHAT'S WRONG?

クッ…!

KAORU-DONO?

.....

WHAT-EVER HAPPENS,

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING...

BUT...

I...

I CAN'T PREVENT THIS FIGHT.

HE'S AFTER ME.

...THAT KENSHIN WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE...

YOU'RE THE CHALLEN-GER.

COME.

I SEE.

HMM...

LET'S GO!!

RYU TSUISEN!

THE HITEN MITSU-RUGI RYU!

KEN-SHIN'S THE STRONG-EST AFTER ALL.

WHO'S WEAK?

YOU MEAN TO AVOID ME,

BATTOU-SAI?!

神谷

師

師範

!

AN ANTI AIR GATOTSU?

KEN-

SHIN!!

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

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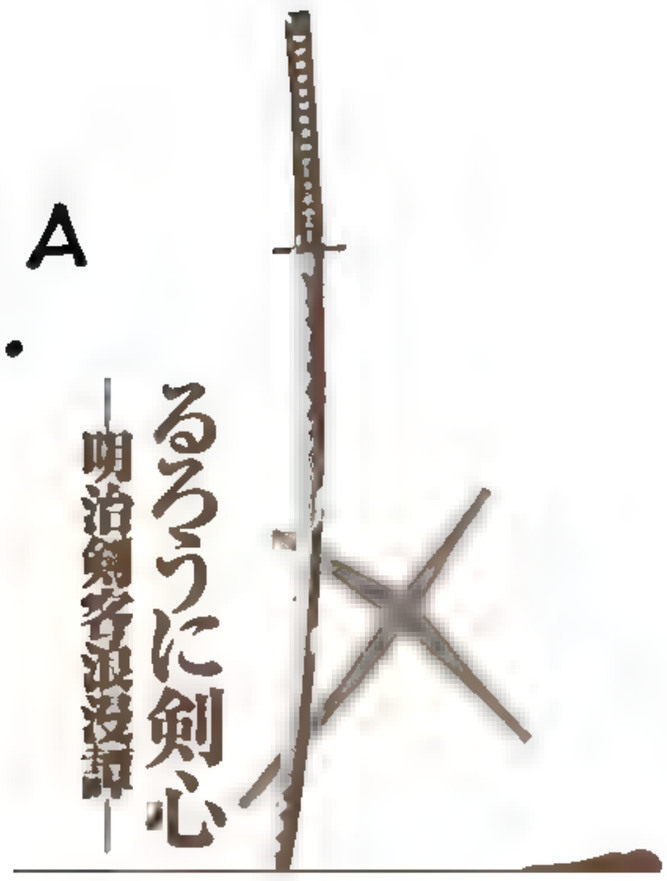

ACT 053: A CALL AND AN ANSWER

KEN-SHIN!!

!

A BETTER RESPONSE THAN I HAD EXPECTED.

BUT,

TWISTING YOUR WAIST SO YOU AT LEAST AVOIDED BEING IMPALED.

UGH...

YOUR FINISH IS WEAK!

!

ハァ

ハァ

ハァ

ハァ

AN AVOIDED THRUST THAT CAN BECOME AN ATTACK FROM THE SIDE IN AN INSTANT.

THE "HIRAZUKI", AS DEVISED BY THE TACTICS GENIUS HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU, THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE SHINSENGUMI, HAS NO WEAK POINTS.

IS INVINCIBLE.

BUT MY "GATOTSU"...

HE'S GOING TO DO IT AGAIN!

THAT STANCE...

TO POLISH ONE'S OWN SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES UNTIL THEY BECOME ABLE TO BESTOW CERTAIN DEATH.

IN REAL COMBAT, IT'S EXTREMELY RARE TO MEET THE SAME ENEMY TWICE.

THE SHINSENGUMI'S TRUE STRENGTH ISN'T FIGHTING IN GROUPS IT IS HERE.

WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN, IF THERE IS ONE TECHNIQUE THAT CAN BRING HIM DOWN, ALL OTHERS BECOME USELESS.

THAT STYLE...

HE'S USING THE SWORD BREAKING TECHNIQUE!

YOU STRUGGLE IN VAIN!

I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU BREAK IT NOW.

ﾅﾅﾅ…

MY SWORD HAS NO NAME, BUT IT HAS SERVED ME WELL IN COUNTLESS DANGERS FROM THE TIME OF THE BAKUMATSU UNTIL NOW.

KEN-

KEN-SHIN!

ﾀﾀﾀﾀ…

NO GOOD...

HE'S TOO STRONG!

ハア

ハア

ハア

ハア…

ゲンパク…

YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

……

STAND ASIDE, LITTLE GIRL.

ドン

EH!

AH

HERE I GO.

SINCE HE SETTLED HERE, HE'S FOUGHT WITH ZANZA, THE ONIWABANSHUU, SHINOMORI AOSHI AND RAIJUUTA ALL IN A SHORT TIME.

HE MUST HAVE LEARNED TO ACCEPT VICTORY BY AWAKENING THE STRENGTH OF THE HITOKIRI THAT SLEEPS INSIDE HIM.

HE'S TAKEN A DEEP WOUND TO THE CHEST AND YET...

THE RESPONSE TO THE SECOND ATTACK, TRYING TO BREAK THE SWORD, MUST HAVE BEEN FASTER THAN TO THE FIRST ONE.

KEN-SHIN

LITTLE BY LITTLE HE REVERTS TO THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI.

WHEN HE PICKS UP THE SWORD, THOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW IT,

JUST AS I THOUGHT ...

!!

HE WASN'T THIS FAST BEFORE!

HE DISAP-PEARED!

WHAT?!

BELOW?!

!!

WAAHHH!!

HE'S BREATHING VERY HARD. HIS BODY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS SPEED. IT MUST HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN HE THOUGHT...

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...? THAT EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS BY FAR!

ハア

ハア

ハア?

NO... IT CAN'T BE

OR IS THAT JUST HIS RAGE...

HAS HE BECOME THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI ONCE MORE?

BY FIGHTING WITH ME, HAS THE SENSE OF TEN YEARS AGO BEEN REVIVED?

TO FIND OUT,

ONLY THIS WILL DO.

WHAT?!

UP UNTIL NOW... HE'S BEEN HOLDING BACK?!

THE TRUE FORM OF THE GATOTSU.

NO HOLDING BACK.

SLASH

MUST BE JUST RAGE AFTER ALL...

BUT HE'S COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SIDE ATTACK.

HE'S FAST!

UWAHH!!

GAH!

KA

IT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTING TO END OUR BATTLE LIKE THIS AFTER TEN YEARS.

GET UP, SAITOU.

AFTER BEING SHOWN THE GATOTSU FOUR TIMES IN SUCCESSION,

EVEN A FOOL WOULD THINK OF ONE OR TWO COUNTER ATTACKS.

.....

AMAZING!! AVOIDING THE BLOW AND TURNING AT THE SAME TIME.

ALONG WITH A BLOW TO THE BACK OF THE NECK FULL OF CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!

NOW I THINK I'LL KILL YOU.

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH.

BUT MY PLANS HAVE CHANGED.

HEH...

HEHEH...

BECAUSE I WILL BE THE ONE KILLING YOU.

STOP DREAMING.

HE'S THE... SAME... HE'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS THAT TIME WITH JIN-E...

STOP THEM ...

SOMEBODY STOP THEM ...!

KAO-RU!

IF THIS GOES ON, "KENSHIN" WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE...!

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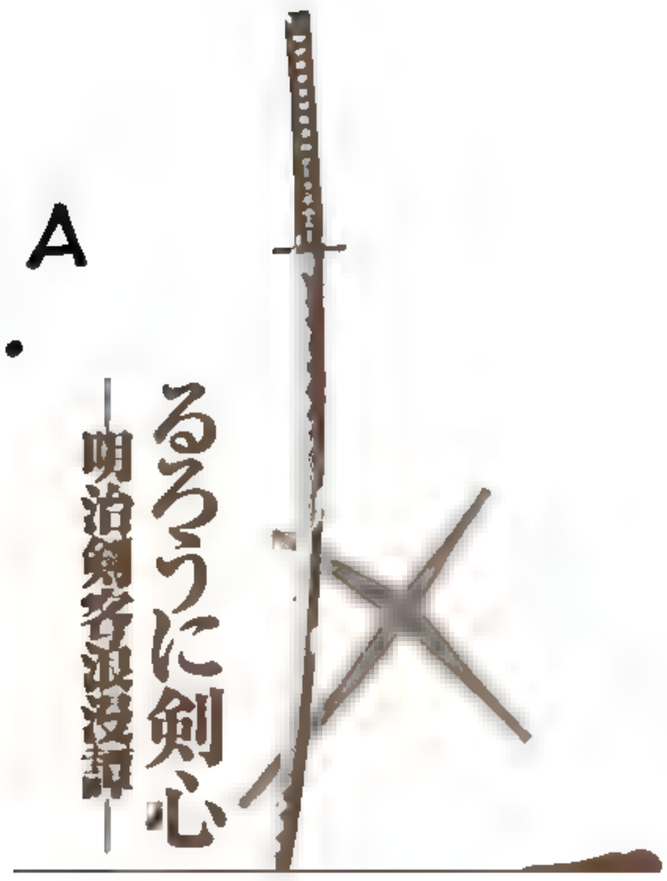
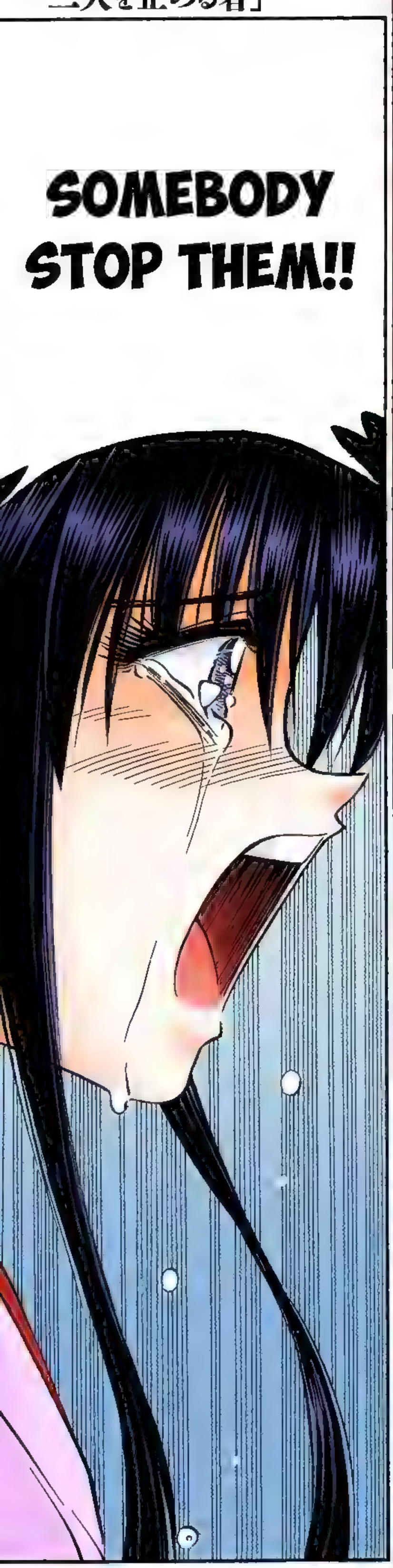


第五十四幕
「二人を止める者」

SOMEBODY STOP THEM!!



ACT 054: THE ONE WHO STOPPED THEM

WHOA!

BATTOUSAI... YOU USED THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SWORD...

THE NEXT TIME SOMETHING FLIES, IT WILL BE YOUR HEAD.

WHA...?

THAT'S THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI !!

THAT'S NOT KENSHIN !!

WOW...

KENSHIN SEEMS A LITTLE CRAZIER TODAY.

IDIOT!!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING...

I SAID, THAT'S THE BATTOUSAI!!

THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

STOP THEM!!

SOME-BODY STOP THEM!!

SANO-
SUKE!

THEY'RE NOT IN MEIJI TOKYO ANYMORE.

THEY'RE FIGHTING IN KYOTO DURING THE BAKUMATSU.

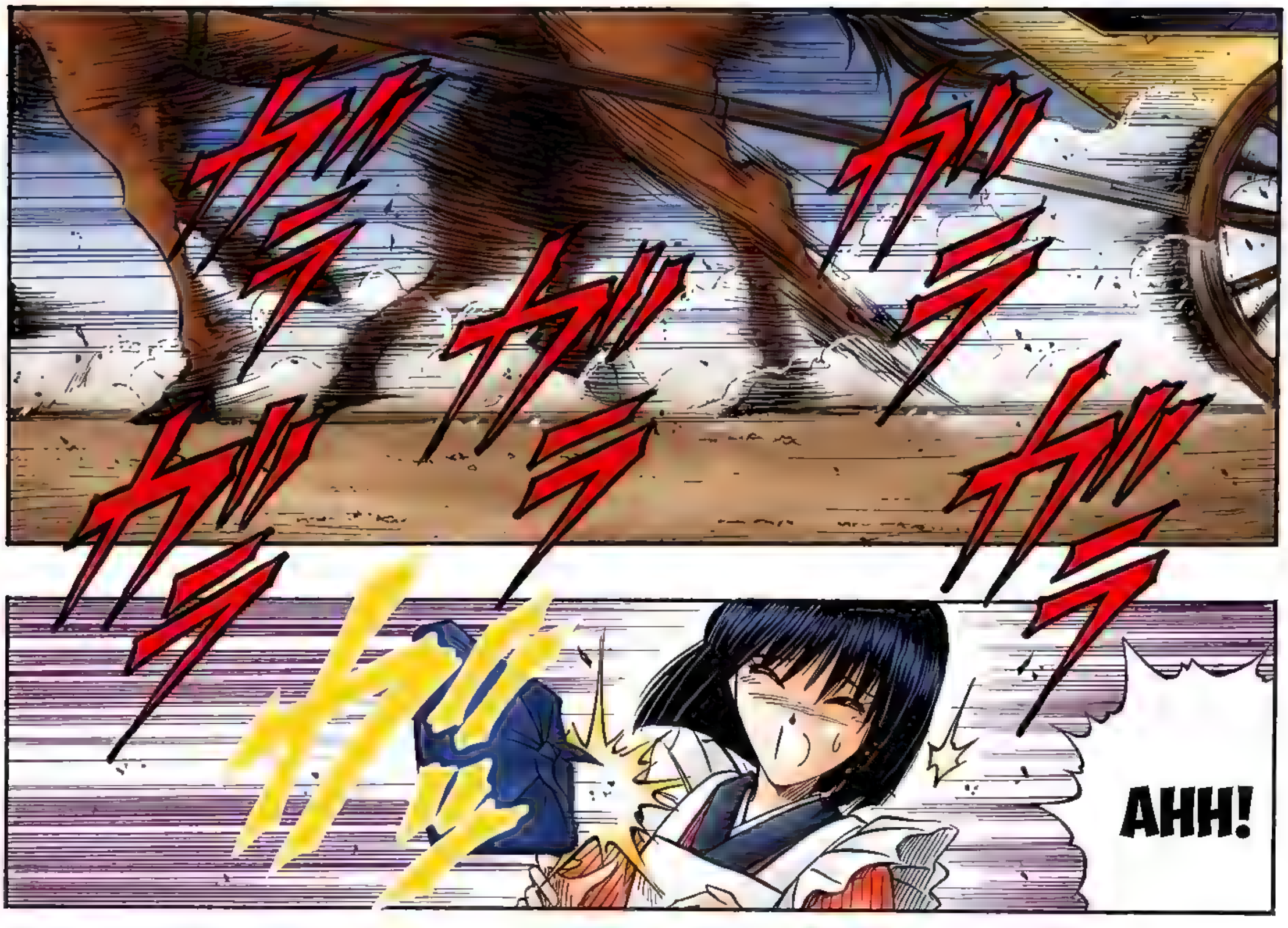
YOU'RE VOICE WILL NEVER REACH THEM.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU CALL TO THEM,

...HAS ANY CHANCE AT STOPPING THIS FIGHT.

AND TASTED THE DESTRUCTION IN KYOTO DURING THE BAKUMATSU...

ONLY SOMEONE WHO'S LIVED THROUGH THE CHAOS...


AHH!

SUCH CARRIAGES SHOULDN'T RIDE THROUGH THE TOWN LIKE THAT!

HOW RUDE!

YE- YES.

TSUBAME -CHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT RICH MAN IS...

BUT HE MUST BE IN A HURRY!

HOW LONG HAS SAITOU BEEN AT THE KAMIYA DOJO?

YES SIR?

ABOUT... FOUR AND A HALF HOURS.

KAWAJI.

YES SIR!

WE SHOULD BE THERE IN TEN MINUTES.

HM... I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE. TELL THE HORSEMAN TO HURRY.

!!!

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF SHINSENGUMI DISCIPLINE...

...IS TO NEVER DEVIATE FROM THE WARRIOR'S PATH!!

I SEE THE SHINSENGUMI STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO RETREAT.

IS HE CRAZY?! HE'S STILL USING THE GATOTSU WITH A BROKEN SWORD!

AND A WARRIOR DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO FLEE FROM BATTLE!

HE USED HIS BARE HAND!

HE WOULD HAVE MADE AN OPENING IF HE USED HIS SWORD.

SO THE SHINSEN-GUMI CHOOSES HONOR OVER LIFE.

THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

HE CAN'T COUNTER KENSHIN'S SWORD BARE HANDEDLY.

THE MATCH IS OVER.

HE USED HIS BELT?!

WHA ?!

!

WHEN DID HE...?

I HAVE YOU NOW!

UGH!

NOW...

HE'S IN TROUBLE NOW! WITHOUT HIS SWORD, KENSHIN DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE...

KEN-SAN!

STRANGLE HIM!!

HE'S TRYING TO...

IT'S OVER!!

.....

HE'S TRYING TO BREAK HIS NECK!

NO... HE'S NOT THAT MERCIFUL.

YOU HAVE LOST!

GIVE IT UP!

ﾄﾞﾝ

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UWA-
AA!!

!

……

A FIGHT FROM THE BAKUMATSU.

THIS IS TRULY...

THE NEXT ATTACK WILL BE THE LAST.

NEITHER OF THEM HAS ANY STRENGTH LEFT.

OR WILL THEY BOTH KILL EACH OTHER?

IT'LL BE LIFE OR DEATH...

KENooo

SHINooo

YES...

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FINISHED THIS.

ﾁｬｷﾝ...

ｺﾞｷｯ

KEN...

KEN-SHIN...

KAO-RU!!

HUA-HHHH!!!

NOOOO-OOOOO!!

STOP !!!

!!

. . .

IT ISN'T YOUR PLACE TO INTERFERE.

I WAS ALMOST ENJOYING MYSELF.

YOUR MISSION WAS ONLY TO TEST THE BATTOUSAI'S ABILITIES!

COME TO YOUR SENSES SAITOU!

!

.....

WHO'S THAT?

I UNDERSTAND YOUR PRIDE AS A FORMER SHINSENGUMI.

BUT I CANNOT ALLOW EITHER YOU OR HIMURA TO WASTE YOUR LIVES HERE.

ORIGINALLY ONE OF THE ISHIN-SHISHI FROM SATSUMA,

SO YOU'RE THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS HERE.

OKUBO TOSHIMICHI.

NOW THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

TYPESETTER: KOJOZERO
SCRIPT WRITER: KOJOZERO
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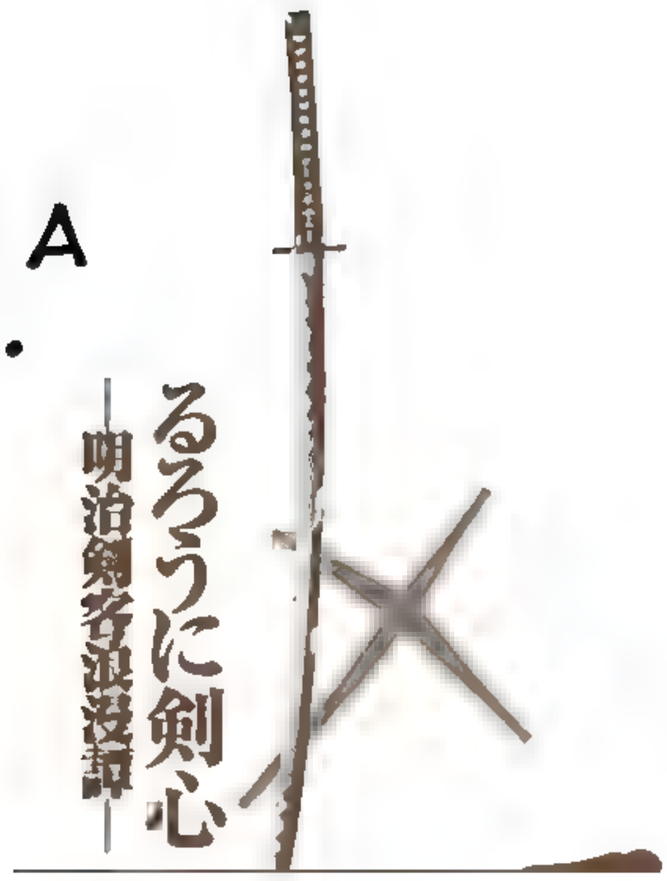

NOW THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNDER THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT,

OKUBO TOSHIMICHI

ONCE OF THE SATSUMA ISHIN SHISHI,

ACT 055: THE REQUEST OF OKUBO TOSHIMICHI

THE LAST OF THE ISHIN SANKETSU*, THE TRIUMVIRATE OF THE NEW ERA, AND THE HIGHEST ACHIEVERS OF THE NEW AGE.

GO READ A NEWS-PAPER FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, PUNK.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

WHO THE HELL IS THIS GEEZER ANYWAY?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS ACTING SO SURPRISED FOR?!

カハッ!!

* THE OTHER TWO, SAIGOU TAKAMORI AND KATSURU KOGOUROU HAD ALREADY DIED BY 1878

HE IS THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN JAPAN.

IN OTHER WORDS,

HE HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY IN ALL BUT NAME WITH THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

HMM...

STILL DOESN'T UNDER-STAND

→

YES...

EVEN IF I HAVE TO FORCE IT OUT OF YOU.

HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL.

BUT WE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO KNOW HOW STRONG YOU WERE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ROUGH TREATMENT.

WHAT ...?

THIS IS BIG!

FEH...

THIS IS WAY BIGGER THAN THE BATTOUSAI ISSUE.

WHY THE HELL IS SOMEONE AS IMPORTANT AS OKUBO IN THIS MESS?!

I GOTTA TELL SHIBUMI!!

OUR CONCLUSION WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD TO WORK THIS HARD, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN HE SPOILED ALL MY FUN.

THAT'S MY LINE.

HE SAVED YOU, YOU KNOW.

HE'S ONE OF THE BEST COPS IN OUR AGENCY,

BUT I CAN NEVER FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL HE'S THINKING.

DAMN HIM.

HIMURA KENSHIN IS OF NO USE TO US.

BUT HIMURA BATTOUSAI HAS SOME POTENTIAL. REPORT ENDS.

OH THAT'S RIGHT, MISSION REPORT!

SAI-TOU!

?

KEN-SHIN?

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WRAPPED UP IN THIS.

YOU MUST BE DREAMING.

COME, THERE'S A CARRIAGE WAITING OUTSIDE.

斬!!!

THIS MATTER...

ボタ

ボタ

……

DOES NOT INVOLVE ONLY ME.

ALL OF US WILL HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

!!

ガシッ

I'M SO GLAD!!! YOU'RE KENSHIN AGAIN!!

OH!

KEN-SHIN...

GOV-ERNOR OKUBO.

HA HA HA HA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STUPID!!

KYAA! MEGUMI, QUICK!

!!

ORO...

SHE TOUCHED HIS WOUNDS

THE BLOOD WON'T STOP!

RIGHT NOW THERE IS NOTHING WE NEED MORE THAN HIMURA-SAN'S STRENGTH...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TOO MUCH TIME,

SO I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.

HIMURA...

IS PLOTTING REBELLION IN KYOTO.

SHISHIO...

SHISHIO MAKOTO ...

WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

THAT'S NOT STRAIGHT TO THE POINT AT ALL, OKUBO-SAN.

WHAT THE HECK IS A SHISHIO?

HITOKIRI BATTOU-SAI'S...

SUCCES-SOR...?

SOMEONE COULD SUCCEED YOU?!

YES. HE HID HIMSELF SO PERFECTLY IN THE SHADOWS THAT FEW KNEW HE EVEN EXISTED.

EVEN I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM FACE TO FACE.

HOWEVER,

I HEARD THAT HE DIED TEN YEARS AGO IN THE BOSHIN WAR.

AFTER I HAD BEEN RELIVED FROM THE SECRETIVE ASSASSINATION DUTIES ASSIGNED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE SHINSENGUMI OPENLY,

MY FORMER JOB AS A HITOKIRI WAS GIVEN TO ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ISHIN-SHISHI FROM CHOUSHU, HIS NAME WAS SHISHIO MAKOTO.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI'S SUCCESSOR.

……

HE WAS ERASED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE.

I SEE, SO SHISHIO WASN'T KILLED IN BATTLE,

!!

AT THAT TIME,

WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.

SUCH A THING WASN'T THAT UNUSUAL DURING THOSE WILD TIMES.

IT WOULD BE SAFER TO ELIMINATE THE DOER OF DIRTY DEEDS THAN TO LET THEM LEAK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

SHISHIO MAKOTO'S SKILL WITH THE SWORD AND QUICK WITS MADE HIM A HITOKIRI WHO WAS ALMOST ON A LEVEL WITH YOU, BUT HE HAD A DANGEROUS CUNNING AND A LONGING FOR POWER ALMOST BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

UNLIKE YOU, HE DID NOT CARE AT ALL ABOUT THE WEAK OR HIS COMRADES.

HE ACCEPTED HIS ROLE AS A KILLER IN THE SHADOWS ONLY TO PROVE HIS STRENGTH TO THE LEADERS OF THE ISHIN SHISHI.

HE COULD HAVE USED THIS WEAKNESS TO PLAY WITH JAPAN IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

IF WE HAD ENTERED THE NEW AGE WITH SHISHIO ALIVE,

IT WOULD SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT.

IF THE PUBLIC EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS ASSAS-SINATIONS,

CORRECT?

FOR THAT REASON HE WAS KILLED,

OIL WAS EVEN POURED OVER HIS CORPSE AND BURNED TO MAKE SURE HE WAS DEAD!

THAT'S RIGHT, WE KILLED HIM!

SHISHIO MAKOTO DID NOT DIE!

HOWEVER, EVEN WITH HIS ENTIRE BODY BURNED BLACK,

HE IS PLANNING A WAR OF REVENGE AGAINST THIS COUNTRY, SPLITTING IT IN TWO, USING THESE PAST MURDERS AS HIS SECRET WEAPON.

NOW HE HAS FORMED A GREAT ARMY GATHERING BLOODTHIRSTY FIGHTERS AND ARMS MERCHANTS WHO HATE THE PEACE, MAKING HIS HEADQUARTERS IN THE UNDERWORLD OF KYOTO.

NOW YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE.

ALL THE TROOPS WE'VE SENT IN TO SUPPRESS HIM HAVE BEEN DESTROYED...

HIMURA, PLEASE GO ONCE AGAIN TO KYOTO.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN,

YOU'RE ASKING KENSHIN TO ASSASSINATE SHISHIO MAKOTO.

SO, IN OTHER WORDS,

AND ON TOP OF THAT WE'LL CLOSE OUR EYES TO CERTAIN TRANS-GRESSIONS.

OF COURSE THAT'S NOT ALL,

HE'LL BE AMPLY REWAR-DED

...THAT'S RIGHT.

THE ACQUITTAL OF TAKANI MEGUMI ON CHARGES OF OPIUM SMUGGLING...

FOR EXAMPLE,

……

ムッ

IF YOU'RE USING MY DEALINGS WITH OPIUM AS A HOLD ON KEN-SAN,

THEN I'D RATHER BE EXECUTED!

IS THAT SOME KIND OF JOKE?

……

AND I'M NOT GONNA STAND BY AND WATCH YOU DRAG HIM INTO THIS STINKING MESS!

KENSHIN HAS CHOSEN TO LIVE AS A RUROUNI WHO DOESN'T KILL.

ゴッ

ゴッ

IT WAS YOUR DIRTY WORK THAT STARTED THIS WHOLE MESS.

AND NOW YOU WANT KENSHIN TO COVER YOUR ASSES?!

STAY OUT OF THIS, YOU IGNORANT PUNK!

THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE MEIJI GOVERN-MENT IS IN DANGER!

SCREW THE GODDAMN MEIJI GOVERN-MENT!

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE PEACE AND SAFETY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO THINK!

WITHOUT THE PROSPERITY OF THE MEIJI THE PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE PEACE, FOOL!

YEA? WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT, BALDY!!

IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED!

THERE'S ONE THING I DO UNDERSTAND.

ほじほじ

EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST A KID AND DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS MEIJI GOVERNMENT TALK,

OKUBO-SAN,

FROM THEN TILL NOW, YOU GUYS ALWAYS KILLED PEOPLE FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT.

IF KENSHIN HADN'T DISAPPEARED WHEN HE DID,

YOU GUYS WOULD'VE KILLED HIM TOO, RIGHT?

……

BUT KENSHIN IS NOT THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI ANYMORE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU NEED THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI NOW,

THAT'S PRETTY PATHETIC IF YOU ASK ME.

ほじほじ

...KENSHIN TO GO TO KYOTO.

WE WILL NEVER ALLOW...

I'LL COME BACK ON MAY 14TH, ONE WEEK FROM TODAY,

TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER.

TAKE A WEEK TO THINK ABOUT IT.

FOOLS! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW IMPORTANT--

ENOUGH KAWAJI.

I UNDER-STAND THAT THIS DECISION IS TOO BIG FOR YOU TO MAKE IN ONE NIGHT,

GOV-ERNOR OKUBO!

IT IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT, TO BUILD A NEW ERA THAN TO DESTROY AN OLD ONE.

I'LL SEE YOU IN A WEEK.

YOU LOOK WEARIER THAN YOU DID TEN YEARS AGO.

OKUBO-SAN,

I'LL EXPECT A GOOD ANSWER.

IF I COULD BRIBE SAITOU INTO TELLING ME OKUBO'S WEAK POINT,

I COULD DREAM OF BEING THE NEXT DIRECTOR!

I SEE... SO SAITOU IS OKUBO'S DOG.

YOU'RE CRAZY!!

YEA! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, BOSS?!

OKUBO TOSHIMICHI ?!

I HEAR SHANGHAI ISN'T VERY SAFE THIS TIME OF YEAR.

I'M GOING TO GO TO SHANGHAI AND WAIT UNTIL THINGS COOL OFF!

I'M NOT GONNA DO SOMETHING THAT RISKY!

WAHH!

SHIBUMI, YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE.

SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY HELL?

BE HE OKUBO OR ANYONE ELSE, ANYONE WHO DROWNS IN HIS OWN DESIRES AND HARMS HIS COUNTRY, I'LL CUT HIM DOWN...

BY MY LAW OF AKU, SOKU, ZAN!

THE REASON I OBEY THE GOVERNMENT AS A SECRET AGENT IS TO DISPOSE OF THE TICKS THAT FEED ON IT,

WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO MY DUTIES WHEN I WAS PART OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI.

!!

BUT WE WHO WERE ON THE BAKUFU SIDE ALSO HAVE SOME RESPON-SIBILITY AS THE LOSERS.

YOU ISHIN SHISHI THINK THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO MADE THIS MEIJI ERA,

IF YOU WANT MONEY, I'LL...

W-WAIT!

THAT CAN TAME THE WOLF OF MIBU!

BUT THERE IS NOTHING,

YOU TAME A MAN WITH MONEY,

YOU TAME A DOG WITH FOOD,

AND A HITOKIRI IS A HITOKIRI.

A WOLF IS A WOLF,

THE SHINSEN-GUMI IS THE SHINSEN-GUMI.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BATTOUSAI?

.....

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

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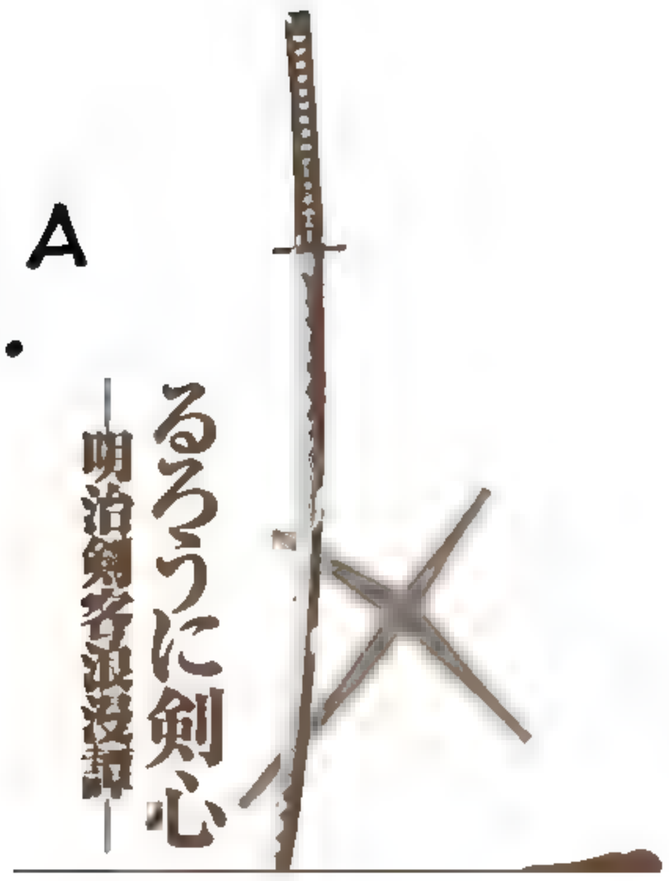


ACT 056: MAY 14TH 1878 "MORNING"

I'LL COME TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER.

ONE WEEK FROM NOW, ON MAY 14TH.

明治十一年 五月 十四

MAY 14TH, 1878

HE'S SUPPOSED TO GIVE OKUBO-SAN AN ANSWER TODAY, BUT HE'S ACTING LIKE EVERY-THING'S OK.

IT'S BEEN A WEEK...

THERE!

IT'S NICE AND WHITE!

!!

I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!

THIS IS NO TIME TO DO LAUNDRY! WHAT ABOUT YOUR ANSWER?!

YO!

HAHA, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE THAT HATRED TOWARDS THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT.

YOU CAN'T TRUST THAT OKUBO GUY!

ALL OF THEM GODDAMN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT THEM-SELVES!

LEAVE THIS MATTER ALONE!

YOU'RE NOT REALLY GONNA ACCEPT ARE YOU?

NO ...

グッ

グッ

YEAH?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!

I'M FROM THE SEKI-HOUTA!!

THEN SAITOU,

WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM A LONG TIME AGO.

IF OKUBO-DONO WAS A CORRUPT POLITICIAN,

AND HAD A MIND ONLY FOR HIS OWN PROFIT,

A GOVERNMENT DOG WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK SUCH WORDS.

NO, SAITOU HAJIME IS A MAN OF PURE JUSTICE.

THAT WAS THE ONE TRUTH WE SHINSENGUMI SHARED WITH THE HITOKIRI.

AKU. SOKU. ZAN!

THAT ROTTEN COP?

ISN'T HE JUST A GOVERN-MENT DOG?

ITS FANGS BEAR THE WORDS "AKU. SOKU. ZAN!" AND STRIKE FROM A DARKNESS THAT WILL NEVER SEE THE SUN.

HE IS STILL THE FEARSOME WOLF OF MIBU...

NOTE: "AKU, SOKU, ZAN!": SAITOU'S PHILOSOPHY TO KILL EVIL INSTANTLY.

I HATE HIM.

GOT THAT RIGHT.

YEAH!

THAT'S WHY HE'S NOT SOMEONE YOU CAN GET ALONG WITH.

UGH,

FOUR SNEEZES ...

IT SEEMS I AM WELL HATED.

EX-CUSE ME.

YUCK! HOW GROSS, FUJITA-SAN!

ばさお

SFX: ACHOO! ACHOO! ACHOO! ACHOO!
SIGN: AKABEKO

NOTE: ACCORDING TO JAPANESE SUPERSTITION, ONE SNEEZES WHEN ANOTHER SAYS BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM BEHIND HER BACK.

BATTOU-SAI?

SO, WHAT'LL IT BE,

五月十四日

OH WELL, I GUESS IT'S NATURAL FOR ONE OF THE SHINSENGUMI TO BE HATED DURING THESE TIMES.

ズズ…

WHAT ?!

PLEASE HANG THESE UP, YAHIKO!

ALRIGHT!

GOING TO SEE OKUBO-DONO.

RIGHT NOW I'M...

チキ…

!

OKUBO-DONO IS A VERY BUSY MAN.

IT'LL BE QUICKER IF I GO TO HIM.

WHY? ISN'T HE COMING HERE?

WHAT'S THE FOX LADY DOING UP SO EARLY?

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT TO THE ONE WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE?

OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE! GOOD MORNING KEN-SAN!

AND...

THAT DOESN'T COUNT, MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO SAVE WOMEN!

I SAVED YOURS TOO!

OH HO HO!

SO WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

I BROUGHT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FOR TODAY!

TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE REPLY.

ORO?

WOMEN...
HEY NOW YOU'RE THE DOG KENSHIN!
C'MON, SHAKE!
GO HOME!!
THAT WAS MY SPECIAL TECHNIQUE, "KEN-SAN CAPTURE!" NOW HE CAN'T GO TO KYOTO!
AND IF NECESSARY, I BROUGHT SOME SLEEPING POWDER, TOO...

IF I GO TO KIOIZAKA I CAN PROBABLY MEET UP WITH HIM.

NO, BUT I HEARD HE WAS GOING TO THE CABINET IN AKASAKA.

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE OKUBO-SAN'S MANSION IS?

ANYWAY, I'M LEAVING NOW.

じゃら

AH!

WE'LL GO WITH YOU!

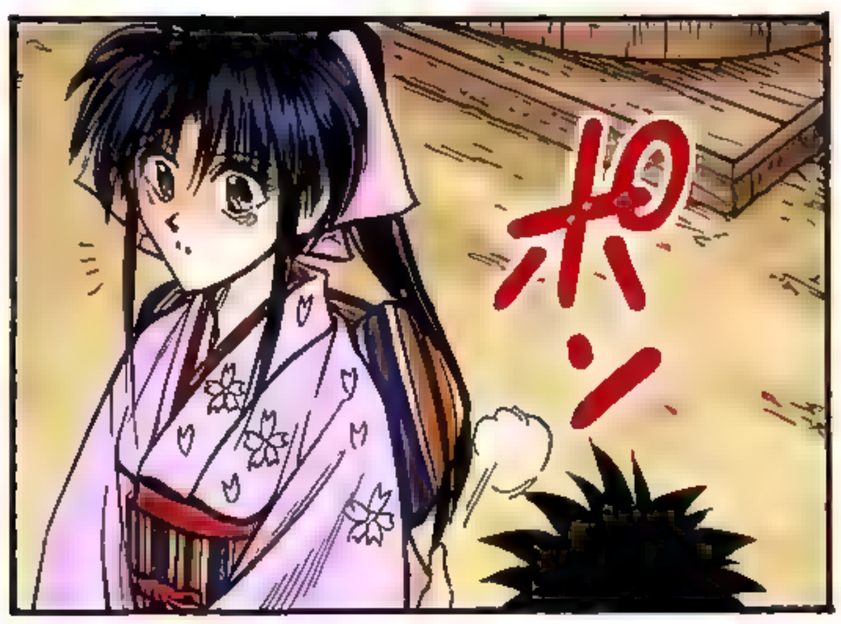
THINGS COULD GET COMPLICATED, SO IT'S BETTER IF I GO ALONE.

NO...

.....

KENSHIN WOULDN'T GO TO KYOTO AND LEAVE YOU HERE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.



YEA...

BUT... IF OKUBO-SAN'S STORY WAS TRUE, THEN KENSHIN WOUDN'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE SHISHIO MAKOTO FREE TO START A WAR

YAHIKO'S RIGHT, KENSHIN WOULD NEVER TAKE PART IN AN ASSASS-INATION.

THAT MEANS THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI WILL HAVE TO KILL SHISHIO MAKOTO

I WON'T LET HIM GO,

EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE FORCE TO STOP HIM.

KENSHIN...

KIOIZAKA: A HILL WHOSE NAME COMES FROM THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES OF KISHUU, BISHUU, AND LI.

ORIGINATING WITH THE WALL BUILT AROUND THE DAIMYO'S MANSIONS, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF TOKYO'S FINEST DISTRICTS.

WAS TRAVELLING ON THIS ROAD BY COACH ON THE MORNING OF MAY 14, 1878.

OKUBO TOSHIMICHI, THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN JAPAN...

FSH

FSH

FSH

FSH

OF WHAT FATE HAD IN STORE FOR HIM ON THIS OCCASION.

HOWEVER, HE WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE...

I'LL HAVE TO MEET WITH HIMURA IN THE EVENING.

TODAY'S MEETING WILL BE LONG...

AND THERE'S STILL WORK TO BE DONE AT THE DEPARTMENT ...

IF HIMURA DOESN'T ACT,

THE COUNTRY WILL BE DESTROYED.

HE'LL PROBABLY DO IT...

NO, HE HAS TO.

SHK

SHK

THE DEAD...

...DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

ニコッ

WHAT THE?!

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM SHISHIO-SAMA.

SHI-SHIO ...?

KILL

!!

"BUT IN THE END YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE IN VAIN."

ｶﾞﾘ

ｶﾞﾘ

"IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO SEND HIMURA BATTOUSAI TO ASSASSINATE ME,"

"THIS COUNTRY WILL BE MINE!"

THAT'S ALL.

KILL KILL KILL KILL KILL KILL

!

I AM CHUOU TSURAHIDE OF THE SAME!

OKUBO YOU SCOUNDREL, PREPARE YOURSELF!

I AM THE SAMURAI SHIMADA ICHIROU OF THE ISHIKAWA PROVINCE!!

OKUBO!!

ALRIGHT! WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF THE COACHMAN!

NOW FOR OKUBO !!

GUAHHH!

!?

!!!!

WE'VE ALREADY SENT THE DEATH THREATS TO THE GOVERN-MENT AND NEWSPAPERS.

HOW COULD THIS BE..?!

WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

HE...HE'S DEAD!

SOMEONE GOT HERE BEFORE US!

BECAUSE WE KILLED OKUBO!

SHI-MADA?

KEEP EVERY-THING YOU SAW A SECRET.

THAT'S RIGHT!

WE DID IT!

WE KILLED OKUBO!

THERE WERE NO WITNESSES!

MAY 14, 1878- THE INCIDENT AT KIOISAKA.

THE ASSASSINS WERE SEVEN DISCONTENTED ISHIKAWA SAMURAI.

JAPANESE HISTORY STATES THAT THE MOST POWERFUL MAN WAS KILLED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

WAS NEVER REVEALED.

AND SO, THE EXISTENCE OF SHISHIO'S FACTION, WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PRIOR NOTICE OF THE ASSASSINATI ON ATTEMPT...

STAY BACK!

STAY BACK!

IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO DEFY SHISHIO-SAMA.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE TOO,

OKUBO-DONO...

ドドドド

ドドドド

ドドドド

ドドドド

ドドドド

ドドドド

MAK-OTO...

SHI-SHIO SATO

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOUN-SCANS

TYPESETTER: KOJOZERO
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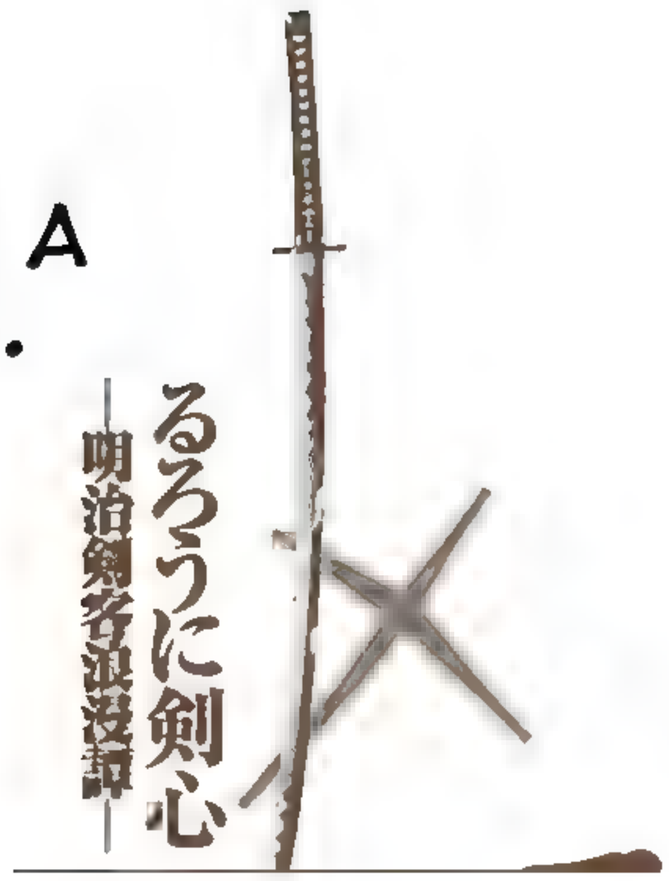

ACT 057: MAY 14TH 1878 "EVENING"

EXTRA!
EXTRA!

BY NOON OF MAY 14, 1878...

SHOCKING NEWS!!

OKUBO-KYO HAS BEEN ASSASS-INATED!

NEWS OF OKUBO'S ASSASSSINATION AT KIOISAKA SHOCKED ALL OF TOKYO.

.....

警視庁

THIS WAS SHISHIO'S WORK!!

HE MUST HAVE MEN ALL OVER JAPAN IF HE USED THE NEWS TO COMMIT THIS CRIME!

THAT COWARD! HE WON'T EVER SHOW HIS FACE,

BUT HE'LL USE PAWNS TO SAP THE STRENGTH OF THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT, LITTLE BY LITTLE, UNTIL THE DAY THEY RISE UP...

OKUBO-KYO...

.....

THAT'S YAMA-YOSHI-KYO, GOVERNOR OF FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.

TO SPEAK WITH OKUBO-KYO

HE WAS THE LAST MAN...

コン コン

EXCUSE ME.

※県令(けんれい)…今(いま)の知事(ちじ)にあたる

BUT I NEVER IMAGINED SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED...

I CAME TO OKUBO'S ESTATE TO SAY GOODBYE EARLY THIS MORNING BEFORE RETURNING HOME TO MY PREFECTURE.

AND IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT WE HAVE MADE SO FEW REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE NEW ERA.

IF SO, THEN THESE PAST TEN YEARS HAVE BEEN THE PERIOD OF CONSTRU-CTION.

THEY SAY IT TAKES 30 YEARS FOR A NEW COUNTRY TO STRENGTHEN ITSELF.

HOWEVER, FROM NOW ON, THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT.

THESE TEN YEARS WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND WE WILL SPEND THEM ORGANIZING THE GOVERN-MENT AND PERFECTING THE DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS WILL BE A PERIOD OF GROWTH.

THEN, THE RESTORATION WILL FINALLY BE COMPLETE.

JAPAN WILL BE REBORN AS AN NATION-STATE.

WHILE I AM UNWORTHY TO DO SO

I MUST ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS AT ALL COSTS.

THEN, WE SHALL SWITCH TO A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WITH AN ASSEMBLY OPEN TO EVERYONE.

THE THIRD PERIOD, FORTIFICATION, WILL BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF MY SUCCESSOR.

IF OKUBO-KYO HAD LIVED...

NO! IT WAS AN IDEAL HE BELIEVED IN!

A NATION WHERE THE PEOPLE DECIDE THEIR OWN FATES, INSTEAD OF HAVING THEIR SUPERIORS DECIDE IT FOR THEM...

IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

A NATION-STATE...

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT WORRIES ME.

.....

BUT PERHAPS SOMETHING IMPORTANT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN TODAY THAT WOULD CHANGE THE FUTURE OF JAPAN.

WHILE OKUBO-KYO WAS NORMALLY VERY RESERVED, THIS MORNING HE SEEMED SO FORTHCOMING.

I DON'T THINK HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO DIE.

HIS POSITION WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY OKUBO FOR HIS TALENT.

KAWAJI-DONO SEEMED VERY UPSET.

WE'VE LOST THE LAST OF THE ISHIN-SANKETSU, AS WELL AS A GREAT LEADER.

THERE AREN'T ANY SKILLFUL MEN LEFT IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

BUT IT ISN'T JUST HIS TRAGEDY,

JAPAN WILL BEGIN TO FALL INTO ANARCHY.

STARTING TODAY,

AND SHISHIO MAKOTO DEFINITELY WILL NOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO TO WASTE...

THE LATEST SCOOP!

OKUBO ASSASS-INATED!

SO...

THOSE TIMES HAVE BEGUN AGAIN...

DON'T MISS THIS!

A MUST READ!

WHY IS IT ON NIGHTS LIKE THESE THAT I HAVE TO DO EMERGENCY SURGERIES?!

ALL RIGHT.

TAKE CARE.

I'LL TAKE THEM AS FAR AS THE STOP.

PLEASE, HURRY!

HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT?!

CAN'T LET THE BOY AND THE FOX-LADY WALK ALONE AT NIGHT...

※俥(くるま)を止(と)めているところ

HE'S LATE...

KEN SHIN...

KEN-
SHIN!!

I SEE.

KEN-SHIN?

おお

OH...

HE GOT TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU AND FEEL ASLEEP

HE'S STILL A CHILD. HE CAN'T STAY UP ALL NIGHT.

WHERE'S YAHIKO?

OKUBO-DONO WAS ASSASSINATED THIS MORNING.

NOW THAT I KNOW HOW SHISHIO DOES THINGS, I CANNOT LEAVE HIM ALONE.

I KNOW, I SAW THE PAPERS.

I'M GOING TO KYOTO.

THE REAL KILLER WAS ONE OF SHISHIO'S MEN.

NO...

I'M NOT SURE.

YOU'RE GOING TO...

ASSAS-SINATE SHISHIO MAKOTO?

IF I REMAIN AS I AM NOW,

HOWEVER, AS IN THE FIGHT WITH SAITOU, I MAY REVERT TO THE BATTOUSAI.

I WOULD FIGHT UNTIL I DEFEAT HIM.

DURING MY STAY HERE, MY HEART WAS AT EASE.

BUT THE FIGHT WITH SAITOU FORCED ME TO REALIZE...

I FELT AS IF I HAD CHANGED FROM THE HITOKIRI TO AN ORDINARY SWORDSMAN...

THAT MY INNERMOST HEART HAS NOT CHANGED.

THE MAD-NESS OF THE BATTOUSAI STILL LIVES WITHIN ME!

YOU HAVE ALWAYS COME BACK AS KENSHIN!

BOTH THE TIME WITH JIN-E, AND THE TIME WITH SAITOU,

NO...

ガバッ

BUT... EVERY TIME, YOU ALWAYS COME BACK TO ME!

BUT WITH SAITOU, I BECAME BATTOUSAI ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF FIGHTING.

WITH JIN-E, I BECAME BATTOUSAI IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU, AND YOUR VOICE IS WHAT BROUGHT ME BACK.

DURING THAT FIGHT, NOT EVEN YOUR VOICE COULD HAVE REACHED ME.

THE DIFFERENCE IS CRUCIAL.

THOSE TIMES HAVE BEGUN AGAIN...

YOU...

I WAS VERY HAPPY.

WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW I WAS THE HITOKIRI BATTOUSAI, YOU KEPT ME FROM LEAVING.

YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY PAST.

IF I STAY HERE ANY LONGER, I MIGHT REVERT TO THE BATTOUSAI AND PUT KAORU-DONO AND THE OTHERS IN DANGER.

THE BATTOU-SAI IS ALL I'LL EVER BE.

BUT, TO THE GOVERNMENT, TO SHISHIO, AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GRUDGE ON ME FROM THE PAST.

I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO STAY HERE!

FOR THAT REASON...

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...

AND... GOODBYE.

AND ONCE AGAIN...

I WILL WANDER.

I AM A RUROUNI.

ON MAY 14TH, 1878...

KEN... SHIN...!

KEN... SHIN...

THE MAN KNOWN AS HIMURA KENSHIN ONCE AGAIN BECAME A RUROUNI

ALONE. HE DISAPPEARED...
INTO THE FOREBODING DARKNESS...

デジタルカラー版

るろうに剣心

7巻

和月伸宏

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IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS MANGA CONSIDER JOINING THE DISCORD.
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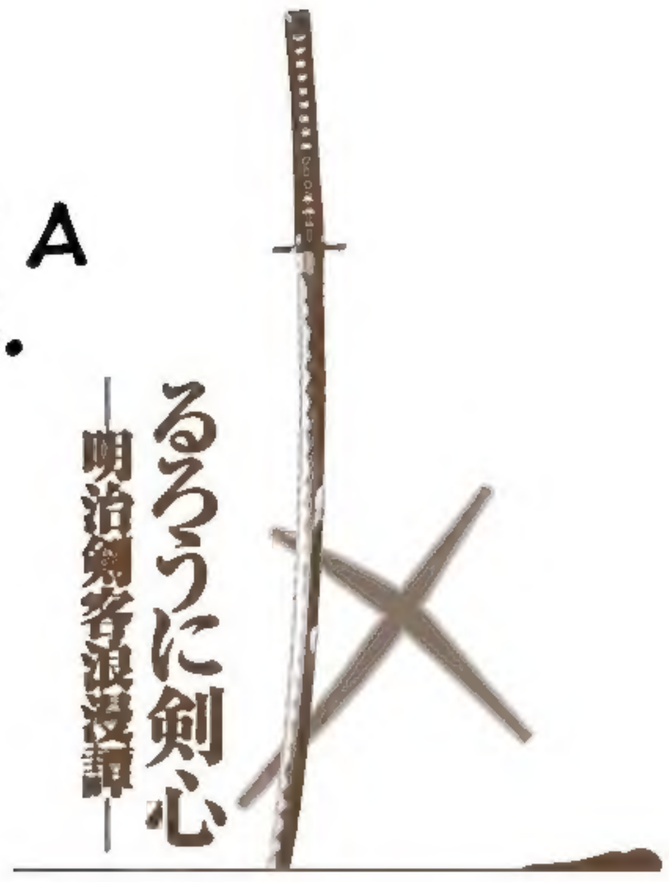
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